

# THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 76, Vol. III.

Saturday, June 11, 1864.

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BENJAMIN WEBSTER, Master.

New Theatre Royal, Adelphi, May, 1864.

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## THE READER.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1864.

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NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE,  
MR. SENIOR, AND MR. W. J. FOX.

HARDLY a week passes without our hearing of the death of some man or other eminent in the world of letters. The number of eminent persons of the intellectual order is now so large, if we include in the area of our regards other countries as well as our own, that it is perhaps a fair calculation from the statistics of mortality that we should thus hear of one or two deaths of this class every week. It is seldom, indeed, that there occurs a death like that of Thackeray, inflicting a sense of sudden and measureless national loss. But almost every week we hear of a death here, or a death there, removing some man of note of an intellectual kind, in whom we or others have felt an interest, and whose removal leaves a certain blank in the society contemporary with us. So often, on taking up the *Times* of a morning, are we saluted with the intelligence of some such unexpected death, that we have learnt to associate these obituary surprises with the sight of the newspaper, and to be in a state of chronic wonder as to the particular death that it will announce to us next. This very week at least three deaths have been announced as having happened within the ranks of those whom we call Men of the Time.

Nathaniel Hawthorne is dead. In him the Americans have lost a writer whom they were well entitled to point to as one of their classics—a writer better known on this side of the Atlantic than all save one or two of his compatriots, and whose claims to be considered a classic in the common English Literature of the two nations have been, for certain reasons, more willingly allowed by us than even theirs. It is some thirty years since Hawthorne, who was born at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1806 or 1807, was first heard of as a writer in American magazines; but it was not till 1846 that he emerged from comparative obscurity and began his literary reputation by the republication of a collection of his magazine-papers under the title of

"Mosses from an old Manse." His "Scarlet Letter" was published in 1850; his "House with the Seven Gables" in 1851; and his "Blithedale Romance" in 1852. These, with many contributions to American periodicals—some of them reprinted in the book-form, and others, we suppose, still to be collected—were his literary recreations, either during an official life, in various posts, under the government of the party whose politics he favoured, or during the intervals when, according to that bad system of American politics which ejects all the officials of the State on every change of the administration, he was without place and without salary. In 1852, when General Franklin Pierce was candidate for the Presidency, Hawthorne published a life of that gentleman, who was his personal friend and had been his fellow-student at Bowdoin College, Maine. The Americans have always made more of their eminent men of letters, in the way of conferring public and diplomatic posts upon them, than has been the custom in our more aristocratic country. Smollett, when his health was broken down by hard work, would have accepted as a boon an appointment to a British consulship in any of the Italian cities; but, though he was unusually well fitted for such a post, and the change of climate was medically necessary for him, and interest was used in his behalf, no such appointment could be obtained for one who was known as a mere scribbler and novelist. He went to Leghorn at his own cost, and died there. America, on the other hand, with all her faults, has been proud of sending as her representatives to other countries her men of intellectual and literary mark. The instances, since Franklin's time, are numerous. One act of Pierce's presidency was the appointment of his friend Hawthorne to one of the most valuable posts in the gift of the American administration—the American consulship at Liverpool. He held this consulship from 1853 to 1857, and had thus the best means that an American could have of being introduced to us, and of becoming personally familiar with us. But, according to all accounts, Hawthorne was about the shyest of living men—a man so silent and retiring (which is not a common American quality) that, if he could avoid opening his mouth in any company, he would sit for hours in an ecstasy of dumbness. We have heard it said that he was perhaps naturally the most silent man in the whole planet—the man to whom it was the greatest exertion to have to say anything at all. This may be an exaggeration; but, at all events, Hawthorne in England was far less heard of than it was to be expected that Hawthorne as an American consul would be. After resigning his consulship, he travelled about in Europe; and in 1860 he published his "Transformation," showing evidences of that travel. And that, however silent and retiring among us he had been, he had been taking his notes of us, and had been peregrinating through England with all the intense filial affection of an American for the little mother-land, appeared, most conspicuously of all, in the volumes which he published, after his return to America, under the title of "Our Old Home." It is but a few months since these volumes were reviewed in our columns; and they are perhaps the work of Hawthorne the impression of which is still freshest and strongest amongst ourselves. We had faults to find with them. They seemed to us the writings of a man in love with our land and its legends and memories of past days, but out of sympathy with its present people and their institutions. They contained beautiful descriptions of English scenery, and especially of old English churches and churchyards, but were full of spleen against the English character and mode of mind—nay, against the very physical appearance of Englishmen and Englishwomen. Their half-angry pictures of John Bull and his "female Bull," and their denunciations of our English grossness, earthiness, and beef-wittedness were much quoted at the time, and must be fresh in the memory of most readers. The per-

vading idea of the book, indeed, was that of the contrast between the sturdy, obese, and essentially stupid character of the typical English intellect, as Hawthorne fancied it, and the finer, leaner, and more nervous temperament of the Americans. There was a hint, however, that that process of desiccation by which the fat and robust Englishman had been converted into the more delicate, nervous, and susceptible American might be carried too far, and that, in Mr. Hawthorne's opinion, there were evidences that American literature is tending more and more, and perhaps too much, to mere fineness, subtlety, and grace. Whatever we might think of these opinions and prognostications, we could not but find in Hawthorne himself a writer of whom his country might be proud—a writer characteristically American, and yet more satisfying than almost any other American writer to our English canons of good taste. We shall miss him as much as his fellow-countrymen will, and shall think of him in association with some of the best of that class of our English writers whom he seemed most to admire, because of his seeing the American peculiarity in them—as, for example, Goldsmith, De Quincey, and Leigh Hunt.

Mr. Nassau Senior, of whose death we have also heard during the past week, had reached his seventy-fourth year. Educated at Eton and at Oxford, and called to the Bar in 1818, he has long been known as a thinker and writer of influence on social and political subjects. He held the Professorship of Political Economy at Oxford from 1825 to 1830, and again from 1840 to 1845. His publications on Political Economy and allied subjects, whether as independent books, as pamphlets, or as papers in Reviews and other periodicals, have been numerous; and he served on not a few of the most important commissions appointed by the Crown in his time for the purposes of social investigation and reform—from the famous Poor Law Commission of more than thirty years ago to the Popular Education Commission of the other day. Among his latest writings was a volume on Popular Education published in 1861; but actually his latest publication is a volume of "Essays on Fiction," consisting of articles on novelists, novels, and novel-writing, collected from Reviews. This volume has not been out more than a few weeks. It is no secret, however, that, among the remains which Mr. Nassau Senior has left behind him, the most interesting and valuable are his Journals of his Travels and of his conversations with eminent contemporaries. For very many years, it seems, he had been in the habit of regularly and carefully recording, not only such incidents as are usually recorded in a Diary, but the substance of the conversations which he heard or in which he took part, whenever either the nature of the topics or the reputation of the speakers gave them importance. This he did systematically—letting it be known that he did so, and, in some cases, having his record revised by the persons whose conversations it reported, in order to ensure correctness. As Mr. Senior travelled a good deal, and met, on terms of intimacy, with most of the notables of Europe, his Journals of Conversations must be particularly extensive and rich. There is hardly a French statesman, for example, from the Emperor himself downwards, many of whose words, used in discussion with Mr. Senior himself, on the most important political questions of the generation, are not set down in these journals in permanent black and white. More than once Mr. Senior used portions of his Journals as materials for review-articles on the state of Europe, or of some particular country; and, on reading some of these review-articles, one was frequently astonished at the little insight into the course of things possessed by the men supposing themselves to have most insight—at the confidence with which predictions were made by this or that prince or statesman that History would take a turn

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which it never did take. But these were only samples of the mass of materials that remained in MS. Whether the whole will ever be published we do not know. The Journals, if published, would be received as by no means a collection of ordinary gossip, but the authentic and, one may say, authorized record of the opinions of the most important European and American personages on the questions of their time.

The third death, announced during the past week, to which we may refer here is that of Mr. William Johnson Fox, late M.P. for Oldham, at the age of seventy-eight. Of humble birth in Suffolk, and at one time a weaver-boy with his father in Norwich, he was trained at Homerton College with a view to becoming a minister among the English Congregationalists. Breaking from this body, however, on an avowal of Unitarian opinions, he became a Unitarian preacher of a peculiar cast—at length completely unattached, as one may say, and trying the experiment of a pulpit of his own, whence he could discourse on things spiritual, intellectual, and secular, after a perfectly independent fashion, to whoever would hear him. Finsbury Chapel was for a long time the theatre of his oratory, his auditors being partly Unitarians, and partly the chance congregation whom his reputation attracted. Of his lectures not a few were published; and these, together with political and other articles in newspapers and periodicals, constitute his contribution to literature. During the agitation against the Corn Laws his oratory and powers of exposition were in request by the League; and some of his speeches during that agitation were among the finest and most finished specimens of his eloquence. A peculiarly musical modulation of his voice, sometimes so marked that he seemed to be playing slowly on the successive syllables as on the keys of a piano, gave great effect to what he said. Mr. Fox's Parliamentary life began in 1847, when he was elected M.P. for Oldham. He was then past sixty—too old to be shaped into any very notable Parliamentary efficiency, even had the style of his mind and of his oratory fitted the House. He performed, however, a respectable part, and might have done more but for the indolence of advancing years. What will be remembered as most characteristic of his life is the experiment he made of a mode of activity in which, in these modern times, he is likely to have many followers—that of religious oratory as a profession open to any one apart from any existing form of church, and of the substitution of the intellectual lecture in the pulpit, and one's own play of ideas from week to week, for a prescribed and fixed agency of doctrine.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

## ANSTER'S SECOND PART OF "FAUST."

*Faustus: the Second Part. From the German of Goethe. By John Anster, LL.D. (Longman & Co.)*

THE very high character of Professor Anster's translation of the First Part of "Faust" afforded a fair guarantee that he would not be wholly baffled by the Second. That he or any translator should achieve an entire success was not to be expected; that he should have succeeded so well as he has reflects great credit upon him, and must be a source of great surprise to every one acquainted with the original. To attain a tolerable understanding of that original is not easy; to represent the sense fairly, even in a prose translation, is considerably more difficult—to make it pass into verse more difficult still; the task of preparing a version at once just to the meaning of the original and palatable to the foreign reader can only be characterized by the adjective expunged from Napoleon's dictionary. The very Germans who read Hegel and understand Oken are nonplused by this Second Part of "Faust." Contrary to his practice, Adolph Stahr accompanies his essay on Kaulbach's beautiful design for Helena

with a copious extract from the piece, avowedly on the ground of the unfamiliarity of his readers with the subject illustrated. There is evidently little prospect of naturalizing an exotic which thrives so scantily in its native soil. Had Mr. Anster consulted us respecting the prospects of his undertaking it is to be feared that he would have received no better encouragement than that with which Mr. Brass sought to inspirit Richard Swiveller to a descent upon the single gentleman's apartment *via* the chimney: "I dare say it would not be anything like so disagreeable as one supposes."

Whence the unpopularity of a work lavish in beauties of detail, and freighted with the maturest thoughts of its immortal author? The great cause is that it is an unsuccessful allegory, or rather a brood of abortive allegories. Amid much that appears perfectly chaotic, it is still possible to recognise a common drift pervading the first act and the fourth; the meaning of the charming Helena episode is tolerably plain; the first half of the fifth act has a moral, and so has the second. But these allegories stand in no clear relation to each other, and the connexion is mechanical, not organic. The Helena and the two preceding acts possess merely a nominal unity; in spirit they are as dissimilar as any two of Goethe's works. Neither of them, nor the act which succeeds, stands in any visible connexion with the First Part, or advances the "Faust" problem one jot nearer solution. It is not till the beginning of the fifth act that the proper subject of the piece is resumed; and we find that the rough and often tedious road we have been treading has only brought us back to our point of departure. From this point we move on briskly—too briskly, indeed—for, from want of due graduation, the second half of the act appears a flat contradiction to the first. The "Doctor Marianus" and "Penitens" of the *finale* irresistibly suggest Harlequin and Columbine; we wanted a dissolving view, not a pantomime. Taken singly, each moiety of this act is very good; they should have formed the prologue and epilogue of the entire piece. Thus much for the leading lines of allegory; the Homunculus, the "Mothers," the Classic Walpurgis-Night, if not absolutely, are at least practically unintelligible. This might be overlooked if they possessed an independent organic beauty. Time has long since rifled the lovely Grecian myths of their original significance; but the shrine is still as perfect as ever, though the deity be sought in vain. Goethe's allegories are instinct with no such inherent vitality, nor do they derive any from the sapless body to which they are mechanically affixed. The Helena episode is certainly an exception, but is no more the Second Part of "Faust" than the encroaching ivy is Kenilworth Castle.

On the whole, we apprehend that, had this Second Part been written by any one but Goethe, it would have met with few native admirers and no foreign translators. It would have been generally voted a very unsuccessful attempt to produce a sequel to a great work, and the very critics who are now most forward to unriddle its obscurities would have been the first to taunt the continuator with his inability to bend the bow of Ulysses. But the circumstance of the authorship introduces a new element into the case. The failures of men of genius are frequently no less instructive than their triumphs, being even surer indications of the structure of their minds. No work is more characteristic of Goethe than this Second Part of "Faust," or better calculated to reward the first commentator who will treat it as a key instead of a lock. One conclusion which may be deduced from it is, that Goethe had recognised the cardinal defect of the First Part. Magnificent poetry, matchless delineation of female character, must not blind us to the perversion of the grand Faustus of the original myth into a mere Don Juan. The legendary Faustus retains his thirst for knowledge, of which indeed his pursuit of sensual gratification is but another phase. He visits the infernal

world; he explores the mysteries of nature, and even of theology, as far as the Devil will let him. Goethe's Faust trifles away his time and opportunities, and does nothing requiring the intervention of a Mephistopheles. In the Second Part all this was to have been altered. Faust mixes with the world, and performs actions not unworthy of his supernatural endowments. Unfortunately, these are narrated in such a way that it is difficult to believe the poet in earnest. Substance is swallowed up in symbol—drama degenerates into masquerade. The principal reason of this is probably the aversion to powerful emotion which grows upon most men as they advance in years. The comic element, for example, is a perceptible factor in the last plays of Euripides, who, of all ancient poets, bears the closest resemblance to Goethe. In all probability the latest works of Shakespeare himself were either comedies or broad historical representations, avoiding concentrated passion. The death of Cleopatra is treated very differently from the death of Desdemona. It is needless to point out how greatly this natural tendency would be strengthened in Goethe's case by his habitual self-regulation and avoidance of everything that could disturb his serenity. The character of his mind, too, had undergone a profound modification; he was no longer capable of the Gothic energy of his early days. The study of classical models had produced its effect; he resembled Winkelmann, who, after his prolonged residence in Italy, could see nothing but horror and discomfort in the rugged sublimity of the Tyrol. From all this, and much more which might be added, it at least results that the Second Part of "Faust" is the production of a living and developing, not of an ossifying intelligence. This at once removes it from the category of such failures as the later tragedies of Corneille or the last of the Waverley series. It is a new shoot from a living stem, cramped and distorted it may be, but with the sap of life coursing through it still. Some passages display the highest poetical excellence; such as Ariel's song and the *terza rima* description in the first scene, and the enthusiastic strains at the conclusion.

Professor Anster's success is not most conspicuous in passages like these; but his chief strength is displayed where any one else would have broken down. His version is singularly even—an unflagging display of the manliness, copiousness, and sonorous energy which alone could have carried him over the apparently insuperable difficulties of his task. We select part of a fine and characteristic scene:—

CARE.

Whom I once have made my own  
All the life of life finds gone.  
Gloom of more than night descending  
On his steps is still attending.  
Morning never on his path  
Rises. Sunset none he hath.  
Shape unchanged, and senses whole  
—But with darkness of the soul.  
Having all things, and possessing  
Nothing; poisoning every blessing;  
At each change of fortune whining,  
In abundance poor and pining;  
All things speak thy joy or sorrow  
Still postponing to the morrow;  
Ever of the future thinking;  
Ever from the present shrinking;  
And the dream goes on for ever,  
And the coming time comes never.

FAUSTUS.

Cease! you talk nonsense. You'll make nothing  
of me.  
I will not listen to a word of it. Off with thee!  
This wild witch-litany is bad  
Enough to drive the wisest mad.

CARE.

Will he come or will he go?  
Who can answer yes or no?  
Purposes postponed, forsaken,  
All resolve is from him taken.  
On the beaten road he loses  
Still his way, and by-paths chooses;  
Still some devious tract pursuing,  
All things still by slant lights viewing;

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Helplessly on friends relying;  
Scarcely living, yet not dying;  
His is endless vacillation,  
—Not despair, not resignation,—  
Restless,—never more partaking  
Calm of sleep or joy of waking;  
All that others do resenting;  
All that he hath done repenting;  
All he hath not done regretting;  
All he ought to do forgetting;  
Lingering, leaving; longing, loathing;  
Ripe for Hell and good for nothing!

FAUSTUS.

Ill-boding Spectres! you in many ways  
The current of man's happiness derange,  
And even the calm of uneventful days  
Cloud and perplex, and into torture change.  
I know from Demons none can make him free,  
Break the strong bands that spirit to spirit unite;  
But creeping Care, lour as thou wilt, thy Might  
I never will acknowledge. Hence with Thee!

CARE.

Feel it then! As fast I flee,  
With a curse I part from thee;  
Men are blind their whole life long.  
Faustus, at life's closing, be  
Blind. My curse I breathe on thee.

FAUSTUS (*blind*).

Deeper and deeper fast comes on the night,  
But pure within shines unobstructed light;  
What I've thought out I hasten to fulfil.  
The Master's bidding is the true power still.  
Up, serfs, to work! and let my bold design  
Before the eyes in outward beauty shine.  
Up, lazy serfs! up all! seize shovel and spade,  
Set to work briskly where the lines are laid.  
To perfect the great work I plan demands  
One ruling spirit and a thousand hands!

## LIFE OF GENERAL WOLFE.

*The Life of Major-General James Wolfe.* By Robert Wright. (Chapman and Hall.)

OF the many great Englishmen who have been little more than splendid shadows to their countrymen "*carent quid vate sacro*," James Wolfe has been by no means the least remarkable. We will not assert, indeed, that the hero of Quebec has even now found his *vates sacer*; but he has found an honest and diligent gentleman, thoroughly in earnest in his work, who admires Wolfe heartily, and has done his best to put the man as he was before us. Mr. Wright seems to us to have been led to write this memoir just in the right way. He became intimate with a citizen of Quebec whom he visited, and who was specially interested in Wolfe and his doings in America. Thus he came to be thoroughly familiar with the heights of Abraham, and gradually took to rummaging old magazines, newspapers, and gazettes for odds and ends about Wolfe, noting down all that he learnt. The materials grew under his hand until he determined to put them together; and the result is before us.

The object of all biographies should be to make the man of whom they speak stand out vividly before you—to give you a new friend, or enemy, as the case may be, amongst men. Just in so far as they achieve this are they good books. The utmost research as to facts, and accuracy as to dates, are not to be weighed for a moment with this supreme gift of the writer of biography. If you do not shut the book with a distinct notion of what the man would have been likely to say or do in any given circumstances, with a kind of certainty that you should know him if you met him in the street, the biographer has failed. Applying this test to the volume before us, we are puzzled what answer to give. To say that we rise from it with anything like the feeling with which we lay down a sketch by Carlyle, or some other great master, would be untrue; but we think that any careful reader will carry away with him, on the whole, at any rate an acquaintanceship with Major-General James Wolfe which will have, once for all, brought him out of the impersonal region, or limbo of shadows, in which bigger and more pretentious books have so often left smaller men.

Wolfe was born in January 1727 at Westerham, in Kent, where his father, who had been a brigade-major in Marlborough's

army, had taken the vicarage as a temporary residence. He died at Quebec, in September 1759, at the age of thirty-two—the man who had been selected by Pitt to command that expedition on the fate of which, in all human probability, hung the question of English or French supremacy in North America. At a time when rapid promotion was far more a perquisite of high birth and connexion than it is now (and that is saying a good deal), this young man, with no external advantage whatever, rose to command an English army in which his three brigadiers were all noblemen's sons, and two of them older than himself. His looks were against him; for he had red hair, sharp-pointed features, like the younger Pitt's, and a very slight and ungainly figure. His health was very delicate—his only brother died of consumption after a year's campaigning—and he seems to have been always ailing. But he had one of the most indomitable spirits that ever took up with British clay, and a rare power of influencing men, ruling them with a strong and stern hand, and yet gaining their enthusiastic loyalty and affection at the same time. He was naturally impulsive and passionate, which made his stroke in battle as rough and trenchant as Sir Charles Napier's—in fact, of all our great soldiers of modern times, he seems to us most to have resembled the conqueror of Scinde.

The shortest outline of his active life is all that we have space to give, and we will try to fill it up with an extract or two from his letters, which will bring out the sides of his character most worth studying.

Wolfe got his commission when he was fifteen years and three months old, and embarked for the Continent at once, to winter with his regiment in Ghent before seeing active service in the campaign of 1743. Here he attends to drill, takes every opportunity of speaking French, and writes boyish letters to his mother, with details of his doings and wardrobe. "I go to the play once or twice a-week." "My shirts are in very good order, and I hope will last me a long while; but I fancy, by what people say, not so long as we are in Flanders." "I often play on my flute, and am going to it now." In June 1743, on the advance of the allied army, we find the boy doing duty as adjutant to his regiment at the battle of Dettingen, of which he writes home a graphic account. His young brother had already joined—he could not be kept at home for "pining after James." "I sometimes thought I had lost poor Ned, when I saw arms, legs, and heads beat off close by him. He is called 'the old soldier,' and very deservedly. A horse I rid of the Colonel's at the first attack was shot in one of his hind legs and threw me; so I was obliged to do the duty of an adjutant all that and the next day on foot in a pair of heavy boots. I lost with the horse furniture and pistols which cost me ten ducats; but, three days after the battle, got the horse again with the ball in him, and he is now almost well again, but without furniture and pistols."

In the disastrous campaign of 1744 Wolfe, now a captain, loses his younger brother, from whose death-bed he was kept by his sense of duty. He dared not quit his post. The letter to his mother with the sad news is very simple and touching. He could not suffer any of the poor boy's things to be sold; gave his clothes to his servant, "the most honest and faithful man I ever knew;" his favourite charger to his friend Parry, "whom he loved, and who would take care of it;" and is angry with himself that he cannot keep the freshness of his grief. "Nature is ever too good in blotting out the violence of affliction. For all tempers (as mine is) too much given to mirth it is often necessary to revive grief in one's memory."

Wolfe's regiment lost eighteen officers and 300 men in the disastrous campaign in which Fontenoy was fought, and Tournay and Ghent fell, which diminishes our surprise at finding him already a brigade-major at New-castle, in November 1745, under Marshal Wade. He is present, with his eyes very

wide open, at Falkirk and Culloden. In 1747 he is again in the Netherlands—fighting in the desperate struggle for the relief of Maestricht—wounded and publicly thanked by his commander-in-chief.

In November 1748, the war being virtually over, Wolfe is making the most of his time by studying the armies and wondering that his countrymen will not do so. "The English should accustom themselves to such sights, that they may be less at a loss, and act like men when anything new or extravagant presents itself, and that a plaid, whiskers, or a ruff cap may not be esteemed by them altogether terrible and invincible." He is bent on economy, all things being sadly dear in the unlucky Low Countries after years of war. "In the notions I entertain at present, spare diet and small beer have a strong place. Nothing but an unlucky knowledge of the necessity of living well and drinking good claret could, sure, persuade me to such a practice in opposition to good close parsimonious economy." Early in 1749 he returns home with the rank of major, and, after falling badly in love in London, finds himself in command of a regiment in the Highlands. Here he spends the next five years, with short intervals of absence, making roads for the Highlands and soldiers for England, teaching subalterns that "young officers must not think they do too much;" they must even "watch the looks of privates, and observe whether any of them are paler than usual, that the reason may be inquired into and proper means used to restore their vigour." The clans are still thoroughly disaffected—"a people better governed by fear than favour." He is prepared, if "that cunning and resolute fellow McPherson" dares to meddle with a small detachment of his, "to march into his country (without waiting further instructions), *ou j'aurais fait main basse sans miséricorde*. Would you believe that I am so bloody?" And yet he left a name which was respected in the Highlands, and was loved to devotion by the Highland regiments, of which he probably suggested the formation, and which bore so great a part in his American campaigns. Here, too, he is actually teaching his young soldiers to aim—a new-fangled notion of the wildest kind. "We fire, first singly, then by files, then by ranks, and lastly by platoons; and the soldiers see the effect of their shots at a mark, or on water." He works, too, at mathematics, which, he tells his mother, "make me heavier in discourse, longer at a letter, less quick of apprehension, and carry all the appearances of stupidity to so great a height that, in a little time, they won't be known from the reality; and all this to find out the use and property of a crooked line, which, when discovered, serves me no more than a straight one, does not make me a jot more useful or more entertaining, but, on the contrary, adds to the weight that nature has laid on the brain and blunts the organs." Looking out, too, on the political world from those northern hills, he foresees that the next great struggle between England and France is to be decided, as he writes to his friend Rickson, who is in command on the St. Lawrence, "somewhere about your neighbourhood." "I have a certain turn, too, which favours matrimony prodigiously, though every way else extremely averse to it at present." (He had been refused by Miss Dawson.) "I love children, and think them necessary to us in our latter days." He has the chance of becoming military tutor to the young Duke of Richmond—a most lucrative post, which his mother urges him to accept. But "I can't take money," he writes, "but from the King my master, or some one of his blood;" though he feels strongly that an officer in command should never have to think of money, for "that spirit will guide others but indifferently which bends under its own wants." "I have nothing to ask for but just as much resolution as fits a soldier. For riches, honour, possessions, and the dazzling advantages of the world, I disregard them; my utmost desire and ambition is to

look steadily upon danger, and the greatest happiness I wish for here is to see you" [his mother] "happy."

The breaking out of the seven-years war in 1757 found Wolfe still a major, but recognised as a man to be relied on for hard service. He accompanied the great expedition against Rochefort, in which he and the future Lord Howe were the only officers who showed the least knowledge or talent. He criticizes the blundering to his friend Rickson. "Little practice in war, ease and convenience at home, great incomes, with no ambition to stir to action, are not the instruments to work a successful war withal. I see no prospect of better deeds. I know not where to look for them, or from whom we may expect them." The court of inquiry as to the failure of the expedition had one great result, for through it Pitt learnt what was in Wolfe. He got his colonelcy, and in the next year was sent to America with the local rank of brigadier.

The fame of England was now to rise again more rapidly than it had set. The rare combination of such an admiral as Boscawen and a general as cautious as Amherst, yet capable of appreciating and giving his head to a young brigadier so daring as Wolfe, ended in a few months in the taking of Cape Breton and the surrender of Louisbourg, compensating for the disastrous failure of Lord Loudoun in the previous year. Wolfe returned to England for the last time in November 1758, and in December was summoned to London by Pitt, and appointed to the command of the expedition against Quebec for the next spring.

How he landed—worked his way up the St. Lawrence—seized the island of New Orleans in June, shutting Montcalm up in his almost impregnable position; how he watched and fought with a wholly inadequate force until the September days were fast drawing in; how his weak body broke down under the strain; how he bore all men's burthens, and breathed his own fiery spirit into every soldier and sailor of the expedition; of the despairing despatch of September 2nd, which threw England into despair; of the famous midnight landing and ascent of almost perpendicular cliffs by a path up which only two men could scramble abreast, which placed 4826 Englishmen on the heights of Abraham, and forced Montcalm to the fight in which both generals fell,—we have no space to write; and the Englishman who will not read the tale for himself is not worthy the name. The nation went into a frenzy of joy and grief, such as hailed the news of Trafalgar and the death of Nelson in the next generation. They mourned their young hero as he deserved, and buried him in Westminster Abbey; and—the King's Government refused his widowed mother the arrears of his pay as Commander-in-Chief, on the plea that her son was only entitled to a Major-General's ordinary pay. Alas! my country, what dirty pranks have been played in thy name! In this respect, at least, we have improved in the last hundred years.

T. H.

## UNCOMFORTABLE NOVELS.

*John Greswold.* By the Author of "Paul Ferroll." Three Volumes. (Hurst and Blackett.)

*Velvet Lawn.* A Novel. By Charles Felix. Three Volumes. (Saunders, Otley, & Co.)

*Zoe's Brand.* By the Author of "Recommended to Mercy." Three Volumes. (Chapman and Hall.)

UNDER this designation we may venture to group together three fictions which, while by no means destitute of ability, fail, from some reason or other, to afford a feeling of satisfaction while in course of perusal, or to leave any agreeable reminiscences behind them when completed. While by far the ablest, "John Greswold" is decidedly the most uncomfortable of them all. Its fault is to afflict us from first to last with an unpleasant sense of wasted power. As majesty will break out through a disguise of rags, so here an indescribable something will not

allow us to forget that we are perusing the authoress of "Paul Ferroll;" but it is with a feeling little short of distress that we find a name once identified with such concentrated energy of passion and diction associated with such a slack, sauntering, helpless story as this. It is, in fact, made up of two or three separate tales, only one of which is worth the telling. This is the anecdote (it is really no more) of the attorney's death at the gaming-table—an episode so striking as to remind us of Mr. Disraeli's solitary success as a serious narrator—the gambling-party in the "Young Duke." The rest of the first volume is occupied with the excessively tiresome love-story of two preternaturally tiresome people—John Greswold's elder brother, a wounded officer; and a young lady, sadly hampered by her poor disfigured lover, but who contrives to let him down decorously at last. All this we bore with laudable patience; but, when, on commencing the second volume, we found that it was all coming over again, *mutatis mutandis*, our endurance deserted us, and a glance at the last page satisfied us that it would be idle to toil through a second waste to see the spider in the halls of Afrasiab. This is Mr. John Greswold's own summary of the results of twenty-three years and 440 pages:—

I am come to the end of all first hopes and plans. What am I to look out for now? What are you pleased to recommend me? Travel perhaps. That will do perfectly, especially as it requires money, and I have spent already more money than I have got. Employment then. Oh, exactly; it is so easy to find employment, having thrown away life in beginning and failing, up to twenty-three. Well, then, shall I stay at home, and die of panting in a narrow place? Shall I forget all and be eighteen again? Yes, that's a capital plan—excellent, most excellent! Turning back the stars in their course, and earth in its orbit, is the only difficulty.

After this we could only venture to recommend "John Greswold" to Sultan Mahmoud's owls. It may be that the apparent planlessness and monotony of the work are intended to lead up to this dismal conclusion, like a yew-tree avenue to a sepulchre: if so, the book cannot be refused the praise of consistency and a due harmony of parts. We suspect, however, that there is a more simple explanation. "John Greswold" hardly reads like a story of our day, and it would not surprise us to learn that, like "Why Paul Ferroll killed his Wife," it was the exhumation of an old, imperfect attempt at story-telling. If so, we can part in charity with it, for it is always a boon to learn something of the early, untutored workings of a powerful spirit. As a fiction, we must repeat, it is valueless; but the trace of a fine mind is indelibly impressed upon it, as the semi-vitrified slags that heap the roads in the mining districts bear a shining witness of the bright furnace where they have been. The choiceness of the writer's language will have been noticed. There are many excellent strokes of observation; as where it is remarked that the only way in which Lord Ennavant betrayed any consciousness of having wronged John Greswold's brother was by inviting him somewhat less frequently to the Castle. But, after all, the great redeeming point is a certain mark of *distinction* difficult to define, but corresponding to what Mr. Arnold has in his mind when he speaks of "the grand style." It is the silver spoon in the mouths of Nature's favoured children, not to be counterfeited by the most dexterous deceit or the most painstaking mechanical industry. The worst and coarsest story of the sensation school would assume quite another aspect, narrated by our authoress.

"Velvet Lawn" belongs to the class of sensational tales, of which it is a favourable specimen. It has no pretensions to genius, but is a straightforward, workmanlike story, fairly interesting throughout. We are chiefly induced to place it among "uncomfortable novels" from the general misery of the principal personages, none of whom are allowed to have any comfort in their lives till Mr. Felix has wrung the situation dry of every drop of pathos. John Carthew is poor;

has a bad wife; is miserable. He gets rid of his wife; becomes rich; is miserable still. He retires from business; marries again; is still by no means happy. His second wife dies, and he is worse off than ever. At length his first wife does him the kindness to strangle him. His step-daughter is suspected of the murder; her half-brother is nearly as badly off; and the poor young creatures remain writhing under Mr. Felix's harrow till the resources of science are exhausted, and he rather contemptuously lets them go. He is evidently a man of ability, for which we hope he will soon find a better use.

"Zoe's Brand" is also the work of a clever manufacturer of fictions. If no one had written about slave-life in Louisiana before, this story might have passed muster. At present the subject is worked out; we have had quite enough of quadroons, quinteroons, and even octoroons. We are surprised that so clever a writer as the authoress did not know this, or did not at least perceive the futility of any attempt to rival Mrs. Stowe. It is as impossible to read "Zoe's Brand" without thinking of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as it is needless to state which has the best of the comparison. It would have been easier to dispense with Mrs. Stowe's genius if we could have recognised any trace of her moral earnestness. But no lofty purpose, no hopeful enthusiasm, no gentle pathos, relieves the tedious misery of "Zoe's Brand." We must caution fastidious readers that they will find enough profanity in the mouths of the writer's villains for any ten of their English congeners; while we are unable to point out anything that they would consider a redeeming trait. The one amusing feature of the book is the ingenuity with which the authoress endeavours to steer between the contending sympathies of her readers. She exposes the abominations of slavery in a way to gratify the Emancipation Society, but at the same time humours Southern proclivities by bringing all her ruffians from the North. So one party has all the sin, the other all the sinners, and the authoress (we should hope) all the credit of an arrangement as equitable as adroit.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT.

## [SECOND ARTICLE.]

*Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Revenues and Management of certain Colleges and Schools. With an Appendix and Evidence. Four Volumes. (Her Majesty's Printers.)*

WE endeavoured to show in our former article that the public schools are not *solely*, are not even *mainly*, responsible for the idleness and ignorance of which the Commissioners complain. We do not believe that there is one of the nine schools in which idleness is not distinctly treated as a moral offence, to be punished by various degrees of severity, until the "ultima ratio" of flogging has failed, after which any boy who has proved himself to be inveterately and irreclaimably idle is almost invariably removed from the school by the request or advice of his tutor to the parents. A plea such as this is reasonable and right; and it works in a manner far less unjust than the Procrustean remedy suggested by the Commissioners, of dismissal from the school whenever a certain form is not attained by a certain age. In point of fact, the public schools are no more responsible for the idleness which they cannot eradicate than a clergyman is for the crimes which, although committed in his parish, he is unable, either by authority or example, to prevent. So long as boys are accustomed from their very infancy to the enjoyment of every conceivable luxury—so long as many of them live in an atmosphere from which all serious thought and intellectual habit are for the most part sedulously excluded—so long as a wholly exaggerated applause is bestowed on mere feats of muscularity and skill—so long it is certain that many who have nominally enjoyed the most liberal education will yet prove to be men of "empty and uncultivated minds."

# THE READER.

11 JUNE, 1864.

The Commissioners themselves barely allude to these obvious considerations, but the witnesses whom they examine repeatedly call attention to them. "The older public schools," says Mr. Chase, are mostly fed from a class who are not "stimulated to exertion by a knowledge of its necessity." The cause of the ignorance of many boys, says Mr. Wayte, "lies in the disposition and circumstances of such boys, rather than in the system of the school." "The average boys there," says the Dean of Christ Church (to whose evidence, by the way, mainly derived from experience of the very wealthiest and the very idlest, a most undue expansion has been repeatedly given) "being the sons of wealthier parents, can command more money than at other schools. . . . The boys meet with ample opportunities of indulging their tastes, and have ample means for doing so." These are but a few of such passages; and, after all, is there any object in multiplying them when it must be clear to every one that a boy, born to the certain inheritance of wealth without an effort of his own, if he be also by natural constitution both self-indulgent and unambitious, is not likely under any system to acquire any knowledge which requires serious, steady, and energetic toil? Will a boy feel very strongly the arguments of his master or tutor as to the necessity for taking pains with his Greek Iambics or his Trigonometry when he is conscious that three or four years hence he will be standing for his county in Parliament, or taking his seat in the House of Lords, with a tolerable certainty that he will be disinclined to open a Greek, Latin, or mathematical book again for the remainder of his life? The remedy which shall cure a state of things like this must be far more drastic than a few experimental changes of questionable value in the work of our public schools.

There is, indeed, one suggestion of the Commissioners which might do some good if it could only be stringently carried out,—we mean the establishment of a severe entrance examination. Of all the Thirty-two General Recommendations this appears to us to be the most important; and the Commissioners themselves say that, unless it can be carried out, they have but little hope that much improvement can be effected in other ways. At present it is certain that boys are constantly sent to public schools in a state of complete and hopeless ignorance about the merest rudiments of grammar and even of orthography—unable, in some cases, to scan a hexameter line, or even to read Greek; and, when this happens, particularly at those schools which do not admit boys until they are thirteen or fourteen years old, there is no chance of recovering the already lost, or of making any real advance. Of course the standard must be necessarily a low one; but, by insisting on even a low standard, much good may be accomplished. We believe that there are hundreds of parents who value so highly the public-school system, that, if they saw their sons rigidly excluded when their elementary education had been neglected, they would make an effort to see that pains were taken to instil a knowledge of rudiments, and to form habits of attention in those early years when that work can alone be effectually accomplished. Until something has been done in this direction, the labours of the public schools will be needlessly increased, and the results of their labours will be comparatively inadequate.

We by no means feel so sure as to the expediency of the proposal to extend the present curriculum by the systematic teaching of Natural Science. The evidence on this subject, not of schoolmasters only, but of others who will be considered to be less prejudiced, is by no means unanimous. If the Commissioners think that "increased attention should be paid" to Ancient History, to Modern History, to Mathematics, to Grammar, to Philology, to English Literature, to English Composition, to Geography, to Music, to Drawing, and to the Modern Languages, how is it possible to superadd several new and most extensive subjects? It is so easy to

say "You must teach the little you do teach better, and there is a good deal more which you must also teach well;" it is so easy to write "We are of opinion that" boys should be effectively taught this or that, or that "care should be taken to ensure a good general knowledge" of something else; but it must be remembered that the receptive capacity of boys is very limited, while the dulness, and the *vis inertia*, and "the striking power" of many of them are practically unlimited. The fact that the course was advantageously extended at a time when it was very narrow does not prove that it is infinitely divisible; and, if with their best efforts the schools cannot succeed in teaching thoroughly to many the little which they profess to teach, why should we assume that they can successfully superadd a great deal more? We would call especial attention to the evidence upon this subject of a very eminent and able witness—the Rev. Canon Blakesley:—

"You must remember," he says, "that the mental power of a boy is a finite quantity. In my opinion . . . considerable damage has been done by incautiously frittering away education into too many branches. I mean that the boys have been prevented from getting their minds under complete weigh in any subject. They have been taught a little of one thing and a little of another, and the consequence is that, when they arrive at the University, they have come to have really no taste for anything. They regard all study with a perfectly impartial loathing; they have had no chance of imbibing a taste for any one subject. . . . No education will ever answer which is conducted simply on the principle of pouring different fluids into a pail; and the case is worse than all when, the pail being full, you try to add a little more."

We would also invite careful consideration to the evidence of Dr. Moberly (iii. 344 seq.) as to the unfruitful character of mere incidental scientific facts; to that of Dr. Whewell, with whom we entirely concur in thinking that Natural Science should only be taught occasionally, and "not as part of the business of the school" (ii. 43, 47); to the arguments and authorities adduced by Dr. T. D. Acland in support of his proposition "that the introduction of the study of Physical Science into the regular school work is unnecessary and inexpedient" (ii. 69); to the remarks of Professor Liveing on the unfitness of Botany and Geology for school work (ii. 29); to those of the Astronomer-Royal on the limited powers of boys, and their probable incapacity to grapple with the Classificatory Sciences (iv. 412); and, lastly, to that of Professor H. D. Acland on the uselessness of mere book-facts about Science (iv. 467). When all this evidence—furnished mainly, not by prejudiced masters, but by men of science and of liberal views—is thoughtfully considered, there will be good reason most seriously to doubt the worth of the recommendation that these new studies should be appended to the present already extensive course. Already at many schools every possible method is taken to induce boys to study the elements of Natural Science for themselves; and prizes are given every term for examinations voluntarily prepared. The experiment has already produced the happiest results; and we cannot help regarding it as a far more desirable one than that suggested by the Commissioners, which, we think, will injure classical learning among the many without producing any new or more important advance even in the few. For the mass of boys we fear that Natural Science classes will consist of those who, as Mr. Wilson of Rugby observes from practical experience, "have a taste for explosions and such things. It is a sort of curiosity which lasts a week." It is true that he finds others who, by the aid of experiment, learn eagerly and well; but we believe, and all experience is here on our side, that these few would find their own bent quite as well by a little judicious assistance and encouragement to read and study the fairy-tales of Science in their many leisure hours; and it must always be remembered that extensive school changes must consist of legislation for the indif-

ferent and mediocre many, and not for the more intelligent and thoughtful few. It is probable that the whole choir of idle and careless boys would hail with unanimous acclamation the substitution of two or three hours' dabbling in Natural Science as a delightful relief from the necessity of exercising their memory and their powers of thought, and as far more easy and pleasant than the drudgery of Grammar and the mysteries of Greek tenses and hypothetical propositions. Whether their powers of concentration and habits of industry, and consequently their ability to grapple with any one difficult and unattractive pursuit, would gain by the change is quite another question. We doubt whether it is altogether desirable that Education should appear so often as she now does attired in the mask of Amusement, and singing in the tones of Sirens.

It is of no use to point to German or even to French schools as confirmations of the arguments which the Commissioners urge. Does any one seriously wish to exchange the whole results of our public school life, with all its faults, yet with its beauty, its freedom, its spontaneity, its noble self-government, its manly confidence, for the petty espionage, the compression, the restriction, the "*vie de caserne*" of which foreign writers of eminence complain so bitterly in the Lycées and Gymnasiens of the Continent? We must take our boys as they are—English boys, not French, or German—and would any one seriously wish to alter their whole type even if it were possible? Are the whole fruits of our national education, as seen in the expression of the national mind, less rich than those produced on foreign soil? Mr. Neate, in a letter to the Commissioners (ii. 49), appears to consider the French system to be more sensible and more effective than ours; but, even if this be granted, and if it be supposed possible to transplant their system into English soil, would he, with the Comte de Montalembert's remarks and the repeated eulogies of our schools by other distinguished observers before him, be willing to get some improved intellectual results at the expense of our social and physical development? "En outre," says Montalembert, "chez la masse des enfants, la vie, la santé, l'intelligence, coulent à pleins bords, avec une sorte de sérénité expansive que l'on ne rencontre guère chez les élèves de nos casernes universitaires." We would recommend the entire chapter on "Les Ecoles et les Universités" to those who think these institutions so much inferior to those of other nations. For ourselves, while we feel deeply grateful to the Commissioners for their patience, their diligence, their courtesy, their candour, and the strong practical wisdom and common sense of some of their suggestions, we cannot, after most careful thought, accept many of their conclusions; and we earnestly hope that legislative interference, if exercised at all, will not be exercised without the extremest and most deliberate caution.

F. W. F.

## THE OLD FOREST RANGER.

*My Indian Journal.* By Colonel Walter Campbell, author of "The Old Forest Ranger," (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.)

THE "Old Forest Ranger" is an old friend, and has not made himself a stranger so long as to be forgotten by his former readers. He comes before the public now like a man with whom you have already a strong sympathy, and who sits down and tells you his history. A sportsman who has no connexion with that very different person, a sporting man, and who is not *all* a sportsman—that is to say, a mere killer of game—is generally a pleasant as well as an estimable companion. Destroying life for our own personal amusement may not seem a very ennobling practice; but, while many good men have condemned it, many bad men have condemned it also, and a thorough sportsman is nearly always distinguished for humanity to his kind. Sir James Outram—than whom a more determined tiger-hunter never lived—had the gentle nature of a child; while

a Hindoo, whose religious scruples forbid him to kill the humblest member of creation, is utterly indifferent to human blood, and ruthless when roused by revenge. A sportsman of the true stamp follows his pursuit like a scientific man. He goes about with his gun as a geologist goes about with his hammer, or an astronomer with his telescope, and is not necessarily more hardhearted than his brother professors, who are quite as fierce in their own way, and would have no scruple in shedding the blood of a rock, or bringing down a planet upon the wing, if such processes were possible and necessary for professional investigation. In other branches of science men certainly use no ceremony in impaling insects and "exhausting" small animals, while there are otherwise estimable persons who can even excuse the practice of vivisection. That the greatest soldiers are frequently the most humane of men is beyond a doubt; and, if we look at the question from a sporting point of view, it seems quite compatible to love our enemies and fight with them also.

When the crowd is running after Oliver Twist, who is supposed to have picked a pocket, Mr Dickens remarks:—"There is a passion for *hunting something* deeply implanted in the human breast." Without venturing to decide whether man be a hunting animal or not, Colonel Campbell has no hesitation in declaring himself to be an individual specimen. From his earliest childhood, he tells us, he loved lethal weapons, rejoiced in the smell of gunpowder, and, despising toys that would not take life, found his greatest delight in following the keeper over the moors, and at being allowed, when so young as not to be able to hold the gun at his shoulder, to rest it upon a hillock and stalk at an old cock-grouse. Book-learning not being his forte, and examinations being yet unknown, the army was his natural destination; and the regiment to which he was posted was ordered to India. There he found himself in no place of banishment, but in a land of adventure and romance, to which he tells us he can look back in his old age with feelings of unmingled satisfaction. Mutiny and rebellion not being matters-of-course in those days, he enjoyed abundant leave, and during his entire career in the country appears to have been more at home in the jungle than with the headquarters of his regiment. His sporting adventures were—sporting adventures. The incidents were, for the most part, such as might happen to any person having the same tastes and the same opportunities. But sporting stories depend more than most other stories upon the telling. Sheridan said of a speaker of his day that he described the phoenix like a poulterer, and there are writers who describe the killing of a tiger like a butcher. Nothing, indeed, can be more dreary than a commonplace sporting book. But the same scenes, pictured by a man like Colonel Campbell, have all the charm of romance. Not that he is ornate or fond of interspersing bits of embroidery: his attraction is quite of the contrary kind. His descriptions are not displays of fireworks, but a succession of shots which always hit the mark. If he has a story to tell, he treats it as he would a tiger. Being once sure where his point lies, he is careful not to scare it at the outset by making too much noise, but carries the reader on quietly till the game is close at hand, and then puts the bullet in with quick but decided aim. Sometimes he hits it between the eyes at once, and then goes off to another subject. "At others a second or even a third bullet is necessary, and the attention is kept alive by a series of sharp, cracking sentences which do their work thoroughly, leaving the reader quite as much excited as the writer, and ready to stake his existence that the catastrophe measures quite as many as the stated number of feet and inches, from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. There is a force and directness about the descriptions which leaves no doubt of their reality, while the language is keen and

fresh, and evidently learned in the open air. If the style has no great literary pretensions, it brings no suggestion of the lamp; it is a fine jungle style, in fact, which would be all the worse for weeding, and you can feel it stirred by the breeze. A sportsman who is also a military man, when he is not merely one or the other or both, generally holds his pen with effect. Sir William Napier's is, perhaps, the perfection of what may be called a military style, and there are phrases of his—such as "the cold shade of the aristocracy," usually ascribed to our august contemporary the *Times*, but which will be found in the History of the Peninsular War—which are as firmly engrafted upon the language as are so many phrases of Shakespeare. Without going so far as to compare our pleasant sporting friend with the brilliant military historian, we may notice the same training apparent in his pages; and, if he is not quite the rose, he has evidently lived in the same floral neighbourhood. But, more than his style, we admire his simple manliness, and the unaffected good-feeling which runs through his writings like a stream, fertilizing the soil and finding a vent in flowers. That he is not a vulgar sportsman is apparent from such passages as the following:—

In other respects the society of Dharwar is decidedly above par. The civilians, in particular, are exceedingly well-informed and gentlemanlike young men, and are first-rate sportsmen, without any of the slang and swagger of "sporting men." They neither keep bull-dogs nor fighting-cocks, nor do they dress like "swell dragsmen," and talk like stable-boys. They make use of good, honest, homely English, in preference to the pick-pocket slang, which, I regret to say, is now becoming much too common, and which, when interlarded with a few quaint blasphemies, is supposed to impart force and brilliancy to the conversation of the "bang-up sporting character." Half the heroes of "the ring" are unknown to them even by name, and I doubt much whether one among them could answer the simple questions, "Who wears the champion's belt?" "What is the exact weight of the famous dog Billy?" or "Whether the Manchester Pet or the Game Chicken came off victorious in the last mill." And yet I have never met with harder riders, better rifle-shots, or stancher men to back you in the hour of danger, than these same quiet gentleman-like civilians. This for the information of the young gentlemen of the rising generation, upon whose minds I—as an old sportsman who has seen a little of the world—wish to impress this doctrine, that neither the use of slang expressions, the society of sporting "coves," a sporting style of dress, nor the study of *Bell's Life*, are conducive to the formation of a good sportsman, but rather the reverse. A sporting character, and a good sportsman, are two perfectly distinct animals.

But extracts are dangerous things to dally with, and the reviewer who indulges in them too freely finds that he has poured an enemy into his article to steal away his space. So we respectfully but firmly decline to say more of Colonel Campbell's book—of which enough has been said to indicate a very high opinion. S. L. B.

#### PEROWNE ON THE PSALMS.

*The Book of Psalms; a New Translation, with Introductions and Notes Explanatory and Critical.* By J. J. Stewart Perowne, B.D., Vice-Principal and Professor of Hebrew in St. David's College, Lampeter, and Examining Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Norwich: late Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Vol. I. (Bell and Daldy.)

THERE is certainly no part of the Sacred Scriptures which has been praised more eloquently, probably there is none which has been more heartily loved and valued in the Christian Church, than the Psalter. It might be called one of the greatest triumphs of lyrical poetry, that the Hymn-book of the Jewish nation was adopted from the first by the Catholic Church with as natural an affection as if it was its own product. The Psalter was not merely revered in its place as one of the books of that Hebrew literature which the Church accepted as a Divine inheritance; it was virtually incor-

porated in the New Testament: and the not uncommon custom of binding up the Psalter with the New Testament may be taken as a symbol of an important fact belonging to the inner history of the Christian Church. And to this the language of eloquent divines in every age and of every school has corresponded. A most noble catena of eulogies on the Psalms may be quoted from such writers as Athanasius and Augustine, Luther and Calvin, Edward Irving and F. W. Robertson. The Psalms have evidently lived in the hearts of the most devout men, of the deepest thinkers, together with the Gospel of St. John and the Epistles of St. Paul.

At the present time, Christians of ordinary education and sensibility will not be disposed to wonder at such eulogies. There is probably no approach amongst us to a feeling that the Psalms have ever been made too much of. Their depth, their naturalness, the simplicity with which they exhibit the primary and permanent relations between God and the human soul,—these qualities, if they distinguish them too much from the spiritual utterances of our own age, give them so much the stronger claim on our admiration and reverence. There is something impressive in the contrast between the confessions and speculations which start from our own consciousness and come round to the same consciousness again, and the voices of men speaking straight out of their hearts to a living God. But, when we are touched by these Psalms, and desire to enter into their spirit, we meet with considerable obstacles in our study of them. In a good many places, there are whole sentences of our English version which we find unintelligible. In many Psalms we strive in vain to make out the connexion of the thoughts satisfactorily. Often it is evident that allusions are made to historical events, without knowing which we cannot understand the burst of thanksgiving or the wail of complaint. Perhaps a still more common difficulty is that presented by apparent discrepancies between the language of the Psalms and our own faith or religion.

No doubt, when all is done, we must be content in reading the Psalms, as in reading the Prophets or the Pentateuch, not to know many things which we should very much like to know. If the information is not to be had, no learning or critical insight will produce it; but that very considerable help may be afforded to the English reader of the Psalms this new Commentary of Mr. Perowne's sufficiently proves. It is a learned and a thorough work; but one of the most obvious of its merits is not the least important: we mean its adaptation to the wants and to the use of the ordinary reader. Mr. Perowne has a very clear arrangement and distribution of his matter, a lucid style, somewhat copious, and therefore the more easy to read, and a discriminating perception of what his readers may be supposed to know already and what they would wish to know. He represents most creditably the rising school of orthodox English criticism, holding the faith of the Church of England firmly, but refusing to twist the sense of Scripture to the support of traditional opinions, and learning freely from any source, German or other, from which knowledge is to be obtained. His book is one which may be studied with pleasure and profit by a very large circle of readers.

The present volume is the first of two which will contain a complete Commentary on the Psalter. It includes an Introduction, divided into several chapters, upon the history, poetical character, theology, and other general aspects of the book of Psalms. We speak of "the book" of Psalms; but one of the first discoveries of an attentive study is that the Psalter consists of several books, arranged upon principles which are not always very obvious, but partially assignable to different historical epochs. We put ourselves in a right position towards the Psalter by regarding it as the national Hymn-book of the Jewish people, and remembering what we know of our own hymn-books. There

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is good reason to believe that the Jewish hymns have undergone alteration as our own have done. They embrace examples from the earliest period, probably from the time of Moses, and reaching down, as good critics are inclined to believe, to the age of the Maccabees. The Psalms written by David may be made out with a good deal of certainty, and illustrate the circumstances of his life in much the same way as the history of the Acts is illustrated by the letters of St. Paul. Other important Psalms belong to the age of Hezekiah. And by such results of the study of the Psalms, it is shown that there were hymn-producing periods in Jewish history, divided by long years of comparative silence.

Mr. Perowne does not express much obligation to previous English commentators on the Psalms. He has gained more from the German critics, from Ewald especially, from Bunsen, Delitzsch, and Stähelin. But the commentators whom he delights to honour are Luther and Calvin. Luther seems to him to expound with most life and depth the relations of the Psalms to the experiences of devout persons in all ages. Calvin makes it his business to ascertain faithfully what the author meant. Calvin, says Mr. Perowne with enthusiasm, "is the prince of commentators." "He keeps close to the sure ground of historical interpretation, and even in the Messianic Psalms always sees a first reference to the actual circumstances of the writer. Indeed, the view which he constantly takes of such Psalms would undoubtedly expose him to the charge of Rationalism, were he now alive." Mr. Perowne is not deterred by any fear of being called a Rationalist from taking similar views. Upon such questions as the sense of imprecatory passages, the references to a future life, and the predictive character of Messianic allusions, he speaks candidly and cautiously, and adopts moderate and sensible conclusions.

Let us take as an example Mr. Perowne's exposition of his principle of interpretation with regard to Messianic prophecy. "The Psalms are typical. They are the words of holy men of old—of one especially, whose life was fashioned in many of its prominent features to be a type of Christ. But just as David's whole life was not typical of Christ, so neither were all his words. His suffering and his humiliation first, and his glory afterwards, were faint and passing and evanescent images of the life of him who was both son of David and Son of God. But the sorrowful shadow of pollution which passed upon David's life, that was not typical, and therefore the words in which it was confessed are not typical or predictive, or capable of application to our Lord. Once let us firmly grasp this idea, that any Psalm in which a suffering saint of God under the Old Testament addresses God has but a typical reference to Christ, and we are freed at once from all embarrassment of interpretation. Then we can say without hesitation: Every word in that Psalm is the true expression of the feelings of him who wrote it; the suffering is a real suffering; the sorrow is a real sorrow; the aspiration, so high, so heavenly, is a real aspiration; the joy and the triumph of deliverance are real; the confession of sin comes from a heart to which sin is a real burden. But the sorrow, the suffering, the aspiration, the joy, the triumph,—all but the sin,—never found all their fulness of meaning, save in the life and on the lips of the Perfect Man" (p. lx).

Mr. Perowne's treatment of each Psalm is as follows:—He begins with a short introduction and analysis; then follows a new translation of the Psalm, in prose, but with the lines arranged metrically; under this are notes, intended for the general reader; and at the end are the critical notes, for Hebrew scholars only. The most devout reader will not complain of any lack of religious warmth in Mr. Perowne's comments. Critical analysis has not lowered the spiritual value of the Psalms in his eyes. On the whole, we

cannot but congratulate him on having produced a most acceptable and valuable work, and we accept it as a good omen of what our own native school of Biblical criticism is hereafter to accomplish.

### "HAUNTED HEARTS," AND "TOO STRANGE NOT TO BE TRUE."

*Haunted Hearts.* By the Author of "The Lamp-lighter." Two Volumes. (Sampson Low & Co.)  
*Too Strange not to be True. A Tale.* By Lady Georgiana Fullerton. Three Volumes. (Bentley.)

IT would be a long catalogue that should enumerate all the superficial affinities and substantial discrepancies of the two stories before us. Both are written by ladies; but the one authoress is an English patrician, the other a daughter of Columbia. The scene of each is laid in America; but it is a New Jersey "heart" that is "haunted," while the "strange truths" of the rival fiction transpire among the swamps and alligators of New Orleans. Both are to a certain extent historical; but Miss Cummins's plot is founded upon a matter of purely domestic interest about half-a-century old—Lady Fullerton's upon an incident in the life of a princess said to have occurred a hundred-and-fifty years since. Last, and most important of all, Miss Cummins's work is a piece of homely truth—Lady Georgiana's one of attractive falsehood. The former is a cluster of daisies, the latter a wreath of *immortelles*.

"Haunted Hearts" need not detain us very long, for the structure of the story is as simple as the spirit that animates it. A generous, heedless, open-hearted youth loses his money in horse-racing; is slighted by his mistress, whose giddy little head is temporarily bewildered by the attentions of a handsomer rival; is disowned by his rich uncle, and quits the country in despair. Before his departure has transpired the uncle is murdered for the sake of his strong box—a tragedy almost unprecedented in New Jersey. In the midst of the public consternation a corpse, recognised as the nephew's, turns up on the beach: hence he naturally obtains a reputation for murder combined with suicide. The experienced novel-reader, however, will not require to be informed that he reappears in due course, and that his punishment is commuted into matrimony. There is a great charm in the character of Angie, the village belle, whose wilful coquetry shades beautifully off into high and pure feeling under the influence of sorrow and repentance. Hannah, the grim old lady, is well done; and there is great humour in many of the minor characters, and an air of graphic reality about the pictures of New Jersey life in general. On the whole, "Haunted Hearts" is a very winning, if very unassuming little story. The diction is as pure as that of any English novel, and a slight tendency to dwell too long on trivialities may be readily forgiven in consideration of good feeling, liberality, and sound sense.

The title "Too Strange not to be True" is, we suppose, a free rendering of the famous "*Credo, quia impossibile*." It is a pity that the Ettrick Shepherd should have pre-occupied the yet more appropriate designation, "An awful leein'-like story." Zealous Protestants, we fear, will consider "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" more appropriate than either, when they find out the true character of the tale as a Romanist polemic, the romantic story it professes to narrate being merely a bait for the hook. Lady Fullerton is, no doubt, perfectly justified in devoting her talents to what she considers the noblest application they can receive; but we must say we should have respected her none the less if she had thought it right to put general readers on their guard. At all events it is our duty to supply the omission, and caution those who do not wish to read Roman Catholic apologetics against having anything to do with her Ladyship's book. Nor will the privation be serious in any respect. The story is pretty enough—the composition decidedly above par. But

the whole is reared on a substructure of falsehood which, even more than the polemical tendency, vitiates our enjoyment throughout. It is founded on a tradition respecting the Princess Charlotte of Brunswick, who married Alexis, the unfortunate son of Peter the Great, and who did not long survive her marriage, her death being usually attributed to the brutality of her husband. According to the tradition, however, her demise was only apparent, and was in fact a stratagem concerted between her and her principal attendant, the Countess Königsmark, to enable her to escape from her insupportable bondage. A piece of wood occupied the coffin, while the Princess, instead of seeking the protection of her relatives, accompanied a party of French emigrants to New Orleans, and there became the wife of a Colonel d'Auban. Some years subsequently she returned to Europe, and was recognised by the Count de Saxe, son of the Countess Königsmark; but, being disowned by her relatives on account of her *mésalliance*, ended her days in retirement. The only foundation for this strange story seems to be that a woman gave herself out for the Princess, and is said to have imposed upon Colonel d'Auban. According to Voltaire she was an Englishwoman named Danielson or Donaldson. The story at any rate attracted sufficient attention to induce the Russian Government to publish a refutation, which Lady Fullerton mentions, but does not quote. One of the proofs relied on seems to have been that the Countess Königsmark never was in Russia. We believe this to be the fact, and may add that in any case her notoriety as the discarded mistress of Augustus the Strong renders it incredible that she should have been placed at the head of the Crown Princess's household. It is, moreover, almost impossible that her son should have been in Russia at the time; allowing him to have been so, he would still be only sixteen; and it is next to impossible that he should have recognised a Princess universally supposed to be dead after a quarter of a century. One point is sufficiently clear, that, if the Princess did not die in Russia, and *did* marry a French colonel in Louisiana, she ultimately became a Roman Catholic; and we shall probably do Lady Fullerton no injustice in considering this as her principal inducement to resuscitate the story. She has produced a pretty, but unreal and hyper-sentimental fiction, quite in keeping throughout with the feeling which prompted the title. It would, no doubt, be admired in Spain or Italy, perhaps by some sections of the reading world of France. English readers will hardly be equally tolerant of such a soft, unintermitting flow of unctuous sentiment, especially when they find that it is only poured forth to entangle heretics, as a gardener compounds beer and sugar for the benefit of wasps.

### ALGER'S HISTORY OF THE DOCTRINE OF A FUTURE STATE.

*A Critical History of the Doctrine of a Future Life.* By William Rounseville Alger. (Philadelphia: G. Childs.)

THE 600 and odd closely-printed pages of which this volume is composed contain the materials of a very interesting book. The first change needed to bring about that result—condensation—might be made, without any great exercise of discrimination, by getting rid of half the writer's quotations and all his philosophy. It would then become what it claims to be—a critical history of a doctrine—instead of being what it is—a nucleus of valuable information about that doctrine surrounded by a collection of random observations connected with it of the most varying merit. We give a specimen from each end of the scale. Here is a sentence which appears to us to contain almost as many faults as words:—

Will the affectionate God permit the ox-hoof of annihilation to tread in these sparrow-nests of humanity, so snugly ensconced in the fields of being?

Here is a striking thought—not happily expressed, it is true:—

Among the Saviour's parables is an impressive one, which we cannot help thinking was intended to illustrate the dealings of Providence in ordering the earthly destiny of humanity—"So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground and the seed should grow up; but when the fruit is ripe he putteth in his sickle, because the harvest is come." The symbol—shockingly perverted from its original meaning by the mistaken belief that we sleep in our graves until a distant resurrection-day—is often applied to burial-grounds. Let its appropriate significance be restored. . . . The line which, written on Klopstock's tomb, is a melancholy error, engraved on his cradle would have been an inspiring truth:—

"Seed sown by God to ripen for the harvest."

We might fill pages with specimens of as opposite values as the foregoing. A large part of the volume, in its indiscriminate accumulation of the worthless and the precious, reminds us of nothing so much as a magpie's hoard, where rubbish and jewels have been collected with equal carefulness. However, let us be thankful for the jewels and let the rubbish alone; it is not every book which could be turned into a valuable contribution to literature by mere subtraction; and a small portion of the volume contains the germ of what, fully developed, would form the most interesting study of our day. The time is perhaps hardly yet come when a writer could survey with fearless impartiality the progress of that complex whole which we know as Christianity, so as to distinguish the entanglement of mere Pagan and Judaic opinion with the true revelation of Christ. This is in no sense the scope of the work before us. That is wider from one point of view, inasmuch as the doctrine is surveyed with no special reference to Christianity; narrower in another, inasmuch as a very small part of the New Testament has reference to the future life. But, as we conceive it is the very silence of the New Testament which is instructive as compared with the popular creed on the destinies of another life, the most interesting part of any history of creeds must be that which teaches us how this silence was misinterpreted—how the marginal gloss of Heathen interpretation crept into the text—how the passages which express the eternal connexion of one form of evil and another, read by the light of Heathen thought, were understood as declaring the endless duration of evil beyond the grave. This most interesting portion of the subject is also that which is treated most ably in the work before us; and we shall best describe and illustrate it by giving in a condensed form that part of it which gives us the genealogy of the Christian creed on the subject of Heaven and Hell.

That the author has judged rightly in denying to the Hebrews all belief in a future life no one who reads the Old Testament with an unprejudiced mind can ultimately doubt. His statement of the arguments which have been used on the opposite side is the best refutation of the dogma they aim at proving. Dr. Priestley, for instance, is quoted as saying "Enoch was probably a prophet authorized to announce the reality of another life after this, and he might be removed into it without dying as an evidence of the truth of his doctrine." It is certainly true that one who searches any ancient records with reference to the views there implied on a future life is liable to a somewhat distorted conclusion. The future of the race was then too large, too full of unbounded possibilities, to leave that place either for belief or disbelief in an individual immortality which it occupies with the nations of an old civilization. The immortality of the Israelites was the immortality of Israel; for every individual the life beyond the grave was something less prominent. So far as the conception of this life beyond the grave takes any shape at all, it is only slightly removed from annihilation. The soul survived in Sheol—a Hebrew word etymologically connected either with the idea of excavation or, as

seems suggested in Prov. xxx. 15, 16, of desire—but thought and feeling perished. Virtually, all was over when the last breath left the body. In this dim light any distinction of the good and bad is altogether indiscernible. "The wicked shall be turned into Sheol, and all the nations that forget God;" but the only distinction of the righteous should be their full measure of life in the upper world—their surviving in a fortunate posterity. Now and then the unsatisfying nature of this immortality was forced on the mind of one who was driven by the anguish of the present to a firmer gaze into the future. "If his sons come to honour," asks Job, in the pathetic remonstrance of half-despairing trust, "he knoweth it not; if they are brought low, he perceiveth it not of them; his flesh upon him feels only its own pain." But this is the exception; for the most part it is enough for the Israelite to share in the immortality of Israel, without expecting any separate life worthy of the name as remaining in the future for himself.

And this, more or less, is the anticipation of the whole ancient world. The different attitude of their mind and ours with respect to a hereafter is a difference quite independent of any individual conviction on the subject. Many there are in our own day who would mourn the fallen brave with as little practical sense of their hopes and aims finding their continuation in a wider sphere than that of Earth as Pericles, who can find no comfort for the parents of the dead but in the hope of fresh children, "who shall prove to them a Lethe of the lost." But no dweller in a Christian land, however little consciously a Christian, would in such a case connect the ideas of oblivion and of consolation. The hope of immortality has entered too deeply into the heart of the race to be ignored by one who takes no part in it; while, for the earlier world, the oration of the statesman expresses the just estimate of a sacrifice in which that hope had taken no part, and of which, therefore, it could form no consolation. Such, we believe, is the true Pagan view of death as an element of national thought. And, if, then as now, man's expectations of the mysterious future have been the exercise of his keenest hope as well as fear—if, while Achilles anticipates almost in words the estimate which drives Claudio to beg his life at an infamous price, we have also anticipations of the merest ascetic view of the relative value of this life and the future in such passages as the tale put by Herodotus in the mouth of Solon, of the pious youths, Cleobis and Biton, who, when their mother had besought of Juno the greatest blessing man could receive, fell asleep to wake no more—yet there is no question as to which of these views was the practical, effective influence in the life of the ancient world. Hades is as chill and dim a goal as the Hebrew Sheol.

But a life so intense, so exclusive, so monotonous as that of the Hebrew must find a continuation beyond the limits of this world. It is the difference between a lake and a river. Sooner or later it would be perceived that the earth could only engulf a current so deep and impetuous to give it a subterranean channel for a fresh emergence. And the germ of this conviction is perceptible in many passages of the Old Testament. But this germ was not developed into an organic portion of the national creed till after the Captivity, and only emerges into unquestionable prominence in the books of the Apocrypha. Dean Milman, in his last edition of the History of the Jews, touches with disappointing brevity on the singular alteration in the national character which displayed itself after the return from the Captivity. To appreciate this change in its fullest extent, we must drop the curtain on the Captivity, and raise it on the Heroic period of the Maccabees.

"During that period," says the historian, "what a signal revolution must have taken place in the character of the Jewish people! The nation which was contemptuously permitted by the mercy or the policy of the great Asiatic sovereigns

to return to their native valleys, and lived there under the sway of Persian satraps, . . . suddenly emerge as the magnanimous heroes of the Maccabaic wars, assume so much importance as to be admitted into alliance with Rome, dare to revolt against her intolerable tyranny, and wage almost the last war of freedom against the sovereignty of the Caesars."

Whence comes the magic power which has transported Marathon to Judaea? What is the great change which has opened a new spring of life? Not merely that the latent germ of a belief in immortality was quickened into development by the atmosphere of Persian thought;—this, no doubt, was only part of the transformation wrought in the national character; but surely it was a large part. As the glorious earthly future of Israel was clouded, and the large demands upon another future made themselves heard, the Jew was brought under the influence of a people with whom this future had been from the first a strong and definite anticipation. "When body and soul have separated," we are told in the Zend-avesta, "those who have neglected the law of Ormuzd will pass into the dwelling of the *devs*, having after death no part in paradise, but occupying the place of darkness destined for the wicked." On its passage from this world the departing soul crosses a bridge, where it is met by a superhuman form of angelic beauty or loathsome repulsiveness, who greets it as the tutelary good or evil spirit, recalling to our memory "angels of the little children" in St. John's Gospel. The soul is then led either by the good angel to the heaven of Ormuzd, or hurled from the bridge to the abode of *devs* ready for the wicked. This representation, Mr. Alger thinks, though not directly taken from the most ancient part of the Zend-avesta, embodies nothing that is not found there. The opinion of scholars as to the age of these Parsee Scriptures is extremely diverse; but those who would bring the writings themselves to a date comparatively recent feel no doubt that the doctrine and usages commemorated in them date from an antiquity much superior to the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus and the subsequent restoration of the Jews. With how lively a sympathy at the period of that conquest the Jews turned to a creed which, in comparison with Assyrian idolatry, we may regard as the purest monotheism, is recorded for us in the magnificent strains of the younger Isaiah. The Persian creed, though commonly called dualistic, seems to us not really deserving of that name. The name is surely inapplicable to the creed which appoints to Ahriman himself an ultimate regeneration into purity and righteousness, which did not, till a comparatively late period, allow of any *personification* of evil at all, and which looks forward to an ultimate opening of the realm of darkness to the omnipotent influence of the all-conquering Light. How evident, in the prophet we have named, is the triumphant recognition of the conquering Persians as servants of the true God, the God who "saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure;" who tells him "I am the Lord; I girded thee, though thou hast not known me." How significant are the following words, when we look upon them as addressed to one who worshipped the light as the garment of Ormuzd:—"I form the light and create darkness; I the Lord do all these things."

The very interesting chapter of which the foregoing passages form, for the most part, a summary, exhibits other important similarities in the later Jewish and Persian thought. Such is the primitive garden in which the first human pair enjoyed a blissful immortality, till, tempted by Ahriman in the form of a serpent, they became liable to death. Such is the Persian Messiah, Sosioch, a Saviour whom Ormuzd will send on earth to deliver mankind and bring the arch-enemy to judgment. Such, above all, is the conception of an individual, personal retribution, expressed in one passage of the sacred Book, in words which singularly remind us of those used by

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our Lord himself in Matt. xxiv. 41:—"Of two sisters, one shall be pure, one corrupt; they shall be treated according to their deeds." But we have dwelt too long on the confluence of Persian and Hebrew thought, and must pass on to later developments of the doctrine under our notice.

Such being the Persian Heaven and Hell, we need not hesitate, when, in the century before Christ, we find the Hebrew underworld divided into a Paradise and a Gehenna, in tracing the connexion between the two schemes. Hitherto Sheol had been conceived as a vast cavern beneath the flat plain of earth, and divided by it from the starry heavens, the region of light—a dim underworld where the light of sun and star and the life of man were quenched alike. Now the dreary monotony was varied by lurid gleams and radiant splendours. The Persian Dutsahk, or hell, found its appropriate type in the valley which forms the southern boundary of Jerusalem. Here the horrible rites of Moloch had been carried on, and here the unquenched fires which consumed the filth and offal thrown into a place connected with memories only fit for such pollution formed the fittest symbol of the retribution beyond the grave. Gehenna was a word from the first associated with abominable wickedness and loathsome corruption; about the time of Christ it developed into the very natural signification of a punishment by fire in the future state. An accursed spot, associated with the memory of moral, and, in consequence, doomed to the pollution of perpetual physical, evil, the sight of corruption and death needing the ceaseless purification of fire was certain at some time to become the type of sin and its appointed punishment. But that the notion of futurity was any necessary part of the meaning—that the spiritual Gehenna was not, as much as the local Gehenna, a present fact—is a theory which finds no support in any part of the New Testament. It is quoted there as used by our Lord five times. Space fails us to point out the obvious considerations by which each separate passage is lighted up to fuller meaning if we substitute, with a clear recollection of all its local associations, the original Gehenna for our hell; but we cannot, in passing, but suggest that the fires of Gehenna were purifying fires. They consumed the relics of death. They were destructive; but only destructive of that which had already passed under the power of death. No fitter symbol can be conceived to express the inevitable punishment of sin—the one form of evil that lies enfolded in the other like the fruit in the flower; but no symbol was more likely to be wrested, by those who already possessed a local heaven and hell, to an expression of these ideas. To the natural perplexity—Why then was language used so certain to be misinterpreted?—this is no place to attempt an answer. Mr. Alger does not touch upon this perplexity, which, we think, in the numerous recent discussions on the subject, has hardly received the attention it deserves.

Some parts of this volume are trivial, and some are in bad taste; yet, such as it is, we give it welcome. We welcome any publication from across the Atlantic which does not at this moment savour of party strife; which speaks of hopes and interests which are common to the whole human race, and testifies that beneath the jar of discordant sympathies is still sounding the key-note of humanity with which our deepest thoughts must for ever find a harmony—a "sacred peace," like the Olympic festival, in which the bitterest adversaries may find common ground to meet upon.

## NOTICES.

*Sermons preached during Lent, 1864, in Great St. Mary's, Cambridge.* By the Bishop of Oxford, the Deans of Chichester and Ely, and the Revs. H. P. Liddon, T. L. Claughton, J. R. Woodford, Dr. Goulburn, J. W. Burgon, T. T. Carter, Dr. Pusey, W. J. Butler. (Macmillan & Co.)—THE Vicar of St. Mary's gives the reader

a hint in his preface that he may look for testimonies against the Privy Council Judgment in this volume. He hopes "that in these days of danger and strife the voice of truth may be considered to have gone forth with no uncertain sound" from his Church. And the names of some of the preachers raise a similar expectation. Only three out of these eleven "Cambridge Lent Sermons" are by Cambridge men. The Oxford Declarationists whose trumpet, giving no uncertain sound, has summoned the clergy to prepare themselves for battle, are powerfully represented by Bishop Wilberforce, Dr. Pusey, Mr. Liddon, and Mr. Burgon. All these take occasion to protest earnestly in favour of the doctrine of the unalterableness of the state of the impenitent in the future world. The denial of this doctrine, says the Bishop, paradoxically, "is a charging upon God all the sufferings of fallen humanity." "It robs every man of hope in the Personal God, and leads him into those dreary mists of Pantheism which border hard upon the thick darkness which settles down upon the Atheist." This "robs every man of hope" sounds strangely like the last words of the much-canvassed Epitaph on the Lord Chancellor. According to Mr. Liddon, to imagine that "God has not created, as the expression of His righteous hatred of sin, an endless hell, is a soul-withering delusion." These are his actual words. How much is it that Mr. Liddon here "charges upon God"? Mr. Burgon regards the same denial as "a hoarse Voice," "an accursed Voice," "a Voice suggested by the Father of lies," to which "the pent-up groan of a sinful world murmurs low applause." Dr. Pusey says that of late years men "have shrunk from contemplating the horrors of hell. And so the unpreached doctrine slipped out of men's practical creeds, and we are startled to find that the suppressed doctrine was denied, imperilled, though, in God's mercy, not yet forfeited." Dr. Pusey warns us against being deceived. "Trust God," he says, "with His own creation." Will not such preaching as this overshoot its own mark? We fear that the hearers of sermons must be prepared for a good deal of this sort of testimony in response to the Oxford trumpet. Many of the sermons in the Cambridge volume, however, are free from this element; and it is not often that purchasers have the opportunity of studying in the same book superior specimens of so many distinguished preachers.

*The Collected Writings of Edward Irving, in Five Volumes.* Edited by his Nephew, the Rev. G. Carlyle, M.A. Vol. II. (Strahan.)—It seems very possible that the writings of Edward Irving may have a greater influence upon theology, or at least upon current religious teaching, now than when they first appeared. His doctrine appears to have been either swamped by the rushing tide of his own eloquence, or to have suffered from the peculiarities of his personal position, or else to have been too uncongenial to the ways of thinking of his time. Certainly, if he were among us now, he would find and excite a great deal of sympathy, as a theologian no less than a modern representative of the prophets. This volume contains expository treatises on John the Baptist, the Temptation, and the Two Sacraments. It is full of interest for readers of all classes and degrees. Perhaps hardly any religious writings of Irving's day are less obsolete for us than his. Note such sayings as these.—On miracles: "Nature, visible nature, in some shape or other, is the idol of all men. The Almighty had to enter the temple of this idol, and, as it were, set its ritual aside, in order to show how weak the idol is. The miraculous part of the testimony is, therefore, a small part of it, only accessory, and rendered so by the stupid devotion of men to sensible things." On religious prudence: "These measures he never would have taken had he listened to the universal outcry there is now raised of 'usefulness.' But he consulted with God and his conscience, and bore himself as you see. And he murdered his usefulness—at least so they would be apt to say in these times."

*Expository Sermons on the Epistles for the Sundays of the Christian Year, preached to various English Congregations in India.* By George Edward Lynch Cotton, D.D., Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan in India and Ceylon. Two Volumes. (Macmillan & Co.)—ONE excellent feature which characterizes this book, its unaffected modesty, meets us at the outset in the dedication. Bishop Cotton acknowledges that his work "rests on a foundation laid" by his friend Dr. Vaughan. And those who know Dr. Vaughan's recent volumes of sermons will understand the aim and character of these of Bishop Cotton. In an interesting preface the Bishop discourses about sermons gene-

rally, and especially about the manner in which they are regarded by the laity. His remarks are pervaded by a tone of genuine simplicity and good sense, and lead up to the conclusion that *expository* sermons, bringing out the proper and original meaning of the sacred writings, are the best suited to the present condition of the lay mind. These sermons are not peculiarly Indian, though the excellent Bishop does not forget where he is preaching, but are intended as a contribution to the expository literature of the day. In this character they will be of considerable value, reinforcing the efforts of Dr. Vaughan and others to promote an intelligent study of the Scriptures amongst those who shrink from theological controversy. Bishop Cotton, while he is essentially moderate in his theology, belongs to what might be called the Rugby school, as is conspicuously indicated by his references to Arnold, Tait, Stanley, and Vaughan.

*The Syntax and Synonyms of the Greek Testament.* By William Webster, M.A., late Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge. (Rivingtons.)—MR. WEBSTER will please many of his readers by stoutly maintaining the superiority of English to German scholarship. But the anti-German interest, though propitiated by this opinion, and by the deference Mr. Webster pays to Bishop Ellicott and Dr. Wordsworth as Biblical critics, will be a little alarmed by his admiration for Dr. Donaldson as a grammarian. The grammar of this treatise is almost entirely taken from Donaldson, except "when the philosophical principles and logical method of Donaldson appeared to rise above the level of a work designed for popular comprehension." Mr. Webster is frank and modest in confessing his obligations, and his work, for one of no very high pretensions, is carefully and thoroughly executed. There is always a danger, in works of grammatical criticism, of bewildering and stifling the common sense which would be the best "exegete" by artificial distinctions and cumbrous terminology. Mr. Webster is generally rational enough, but he is by no means proof against the temptation of the systematic grammarian. For example, he has a heading "Cilicisms," and argues from the example of Æschylus that we might expect some Cilicisms in the writings of a native of Tarsus; and in order, apparently, not to disappoint this expectation, he quotes four expressions from St. Paul, which it is simply absurd to refer to Cilicia, such as ἀνθρωπίνῃ ἡμέρᾳ and ἀνθρώπων λόγῳ. The only reason, in fact, which Mr. Webster gives for calling these "Cilicisms," is that very similar expressions are to be found in the best Attic writers.

*The Danes in Camp: Letters from Sönderborg.* By Auberon Herbert. (Saunders, Otley, & Co.)—THESE interesting letters are dedicated to the writer's mother, the Countess Dowager of Carnarvon. As was to be expected, they place the events of the siege graphically before the reader, in simple but forcible language, and throughout dwell strongly on two points—the brave character of the Danish army and the weakness of the Dybbøl position. All that Mr. Herbert says on these points claims our most careful attention; and therefore, as the book has only just reached us as we are going to press, we must defer a fuller notice of its contents, satisfying ourselves with quoting the conclusion of the last letter, written when Mr. Herbert was on the point of quitting the Dybbøl forts:—"Brave, honest fellows!" are his words. "I can only tell you with difficulty how my heart rises up to wish God-bless-them, now that we are on the point of leaving them, and perhaps of never seeing one of them again. There are dark miserable thoughts which crowd my mind as I look forward to the future which lies before them. Should any disaster fall on this small army, where, when these hearts have done beating, and these arms are stiff and cold—where will Denmark find new lives and new sinews to plant her fields and gather her increase? Where will there be found those who shall continue this gallant race, who shall be the fathers of the next generation? Where throughout this land, so happy a few months ago—where will you find any home unvisited by the angel of death, uninhabited by widows and orphans. I have read of an Arcadia, but I never thought to have set my foot within it. In all soberness of speech, the virtues and happiness of this country would lead me to give this name to it, were it not that, in the very moment in which I first discover the picture, there is a dark curtain which seems to be descending and blotting all out. I have read of a 'patriot army' of peasants and ploughmen and fishermen fighting for their country, and burying the care of self and home and family in

that deeper love; but, except in my dreams, I never thought to have seen what I only imagined from my school-books. As I write, I feel that there is a bitter irony laughing through my words. My Arcadia is a prey to Uhlands and Croats; my patriot army stands on the eve of a trial—where, perhaps, the highest science and the fullest resources of war could not save them. Can I accredit them with either? Can I hope that we still live in days in which patriot armies gain victories, and repulse the hosts of countless invaders? Dark as are the clouds, and cruel as is the game which is being played out, however chances may fall, and whether I succeed in persuading you or not, I am determined to remain constant to my own belief, that I have both visited Arcadia and seen a 'patriot army.' Do you blame me in this nineteenth century for cherishing two such illusions, if illusions they are?"

*An Etymological Dictionary of the Romance Languages: chiefly from the German of Friedrich Diez.* By C. Donkin, B.A. (Williams and Norgate.)—EVERY student of Etymology will be grateful for the appearance of this book; for whether you believe in Diez as an oracle, as some German-philists do, or doubt him, as some English sceptics have done, asserting that wherever he can go wrong he does, and never helps you in a *crux*, yet Diez is Diez, and every one dealing with Romance etymologies must at least see what he says. It is a great comfort to be able to do this in Mr. Donkin's handy volume, where all the words are alphabetically arranged, instead of being obliged to use the German tomes with their four divisions—*Gemeinromanische Wörter*, *Italiänisches Gebiet*, *Spanisches Gebiet*, *Französisches Gebiet*—to go to the back of your head, ask where the word is likely to be, then turn to the place, and perhaps be disappointed, then turn to another, and either find your word or not as the case may be, but certainly without any of the corrections that Wedgwood, Mahn, and others have supplied, or the different views they have put forward. That such corrections are needed no one who has used the great German's work unblindly will deny; that the debt of all scholars and students to it is, notwithstanding, very great, no unprejudiced person will deny either. We have neither space nor time at this season of the year for an attempt at an estimate of the precise value of Diez's labours; but of this we are sure, that the English translation of his book should be on the shelves of every one who wants to understand the meaning and know the history of the large Romance class of English words. This Dictionary is just a necessity to every teacher and student, and we are grateful to the Publisher and the Editor for it.

*Fantastic Stories.* By Edward Yardley, Jun. (Longman & Co. Pp. 150.)—"THE Adventures of Prince Lulu," "The Marvellous History of Poopoo," and the rest, are all very "fantastic," and sometimes funny; but the lack of originality is not compensated for either by the charm of our author's style or by the force and contagion of his humour. As exceptions, however, we would mention "Stratagem of Lady Isolda" and "King Gugusta and his Raven," both of which are not only well told, but are also original in plot and humorous in detail; and we see no reason why one who can go so far and do so well should not go farther and do better.

*The Practical Spelling-Book, Pronouncing, Explanatory, and Derivative.* By Roscoe Mongan, B.A. Third Edition. (Longman & Co. Pp. 192.)—*The Practical English Grammar; comprising also an Analysis of Sentences, Composition, &c.* By Roscoe Mongan, B.A. (Longman & Co. Pp. 292.)—*An Abridgment of the Practical English Grammar.* By Roscoe Mongan, B.A. (Longman & Co. Pp. 212.)—We have glanced through Mr. Mongan's school-books, dipping into them here and there; and, for one weak point, we have come across half-a-dozen strong ones, and that, too, when we least expected them. The "Spelling-Book" begins with "Easy Monosyllables," which are succeeded by "Difficult Monosyllables;" and so on, easy and difficult, up to words of five and six syllables: and Part First, after touching on the genders and plurals of nouns, "Verbs of the Ancient or Strong Conjugation," &c., closes with "Geographical Nouns and Adjectives," and the "Formation of Compound Words." Part Second is devoted to "Pronunciation," which begins with "Words of Exactly the same Pronunciation," and "Words of Nearly the same Pronunciation," and finishes with "Words chiefly of Modern Introduction." Parts Three and Four treat of the "Derivation of English Words from the Latin and Greek Languages and from the Anglo-Saxon;" and an Appendix showing the formation of participles in *ing* and *ed*—the

rules for which are but too often violated—and containing a list of "Abbreviations, English and Latin," very appropriately closes the volume. The "Grammar" is equally satisfactory. A little amplification, perhaps, here and there—on versification, for instance, to which Mr. Mongan devotes little more than two leaves and a half—in some future edition would be desirable; but, for all practical purposes, whether in respect of arrangement, definition, or general scope, Mr. Mongan's English Grammar will readily commend itself to every one anxious to master the tongue of Shakespeare. Such subjects as "Composition," "Précis, or the Abstract of Official Documents," "The Subjunctive Mood and the uses of 'Shall' and 'Will,'" are all explained simply and clearly. The great labour and patience, so necessary in the construction of a good English Grammar, which Mr. Mongan has bestowed on the present work, may be gathered from the fact that he has been occupied two years in bringing the book through the press. The typography is excellent.

*The Children of the Chapel.* A Tale. By the Author of "Mark Dennis." (Masters. Pp. 122.)—THIS charmingly-told tale is laid in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and refers to the children of the Chapel Royal. The hero, Arthur Savile, generous and bright, but without much head for study, is stolen, on his way to school, by the master of the Queen's choristers, Thomas Gyles; and the interest of the story lies in the hardships which the little fellow undergoes at the hands of his cruel task-master. The author, in introducing the morality-play of the "Pilgrimage of Pleasure," which the boys perform before the Queen, takes occasion to weave into his story much antiquarian knowledge; and the manners and customs, and even the phraseology of the period, are preserved throughout with a considerable amount of artistic consistency. The author of "The Children of the Chapel" has the rare art of not only enlisting, but retaining the sympathies of his readers.

*A Lecture delivered in the Theatre of the South Kensington Museum on Tuesday, the 12th of April, 1864.* By H. E. Cardinal Wiseman. (Murray. Pp. 41.)—His Eminence the Cardinal, when he treats of architecture, speaks with authority, for his natural tastes are elevated and his opportunities of acquiring all kinds of art-knowledge have, in no ordinary degree, been large. His style, too, when talking of such matters, is sympathetic and scholarly. The inroads of the railway into London meet with little countenance from the Cardinal: he compares them to the invasion of ancient Rome by aqueducts. But the railway contractors have failed to give that ornamental character to their works which he believes the Romans gave to their aqueducts the moment they entered the city. The prospects of architecture he thinks most promising.

*Pictorial Illustrations of Geography.* Six Coloured Charts for Elementary Schools. (Bacon & Co.)—THESE charts serve admirably to explain the technical terms used in Geography; and, if they are suspended on the wall of the school-room, the teacher has only to take the trouble to let his wand rest upon the picture-illustration of the word to make it perfectly intelligible to the most infantine comprehension. Each plate contains a picture, verbal definitions, and a map; and we have no doubt that the small cost of the series will cause the charts to find their way into most of our Infant and National Schools.

*The Fine Arts Quarterly Review.*—CARDINAL WISEMAN opens the present number with an excellent article on the "Tercentenary Memorial of Shakespeare." His notion is that "the publication of such an edition of Shakespeare's complete works as in its text, its typography, and its ILLUSTRATION should be unrivalled" would be, in the words of Horace, "a monument more enduring than brass." He works out the idea with his usual felicity, and goes into some interesting details to show how the thing may be realised. Few people will read the article without being convinced that the Cardinal's idea is worthy the gravest consideration. Next follow two articles from the pen of Mr. Philip Gilbert Hamerton, the one entitled "Analysis and Synthesis in Painting," the other "The Reaction from Pre-Raphaelitism." We have read both with much interest, and have come to the conclusion that, could Mr. Hamerton expound the principles of art half as successfully on the canvas as he does on the printed page, he would be in the very foremost rank of living painters. But it seldom happens that the two qualities are combined in one man. As a writer on Art, however, Mr. Hamerton is decidedly an acquisition to current literature. H. de Triqueti has a capital paper on "Recent

Additions to the National Art-Collections," and "M. C. H." writes with a sympathetic pen of the life and genius of "Paul Delaroche." "Art Exhibitions in London" are treated with Mr. W. M. Rossetti's usual ability and discrimination, albeit we should like to have seen his article a little longer. Mr. W. Noël Sainsbury contributes a very interesting paper "On the Fine Arts in India in the Reign of James I.;" Mr. J. Bevington Atkinson gives us "Gleanings from Westminster Abbey;" Mr. F. G. Stephens treats of "Recent Acquisitions at the South Kensington Museum;" Mr. G. W. Reid tells us of "Jacob Binck" and his works; and Mr. A. W. Franks has something interesting to say "On Early Christian Glass." The Editor keeps up the high character of the *Fine Arts Quarterly*, and we regard it now as one of our "institutions."

In *Temple Bar* we find a very sensible and well-written paper on the life and character of "David Garrick," and another on "New Zealand: Past, Present, and Future." The "Doctor's Wife" reaches chapter eighteen; "Broken to Harness," by Edmund Yates, chapter nineteen; and "Paid in Full," by Henry J. Byron, chapter eleven. Mr. George Augustus Sala describes "The Maximilien-Strasse" in Munich; and, under the facetious title of "The Long-bow in India," S. L. B. treats us to some sensible remarks, first, on "the long-bow drawn for themselves by our countrymen in India;" and, secondly, on "the long-bow drawn for our countrymen in India by our countrymen at home."

THE current number closes the fifth volume of *London Society*, and is written as sparklingly and illustrated with as much spirit as when the magazine first challenged the suffrages of the public. The artists in this number are Louis Desanges, C. A. Doyle, E. K. Johnson, and M. Ellen Edwards, whose graceful pencil always commands our admiration.—*The Churchman's Family Magazine* closes its third volume with a beautiful woodcut of the "Bishop of Oxford" after a photograph by Mr. Hering, accompanied by a well-written review of the distinguished prelate's career as writer, orator, and bishop. The principal illustrators are T. Morten and Florence Claxton.—*Chambers's Journal* opens with a new story called "Lord Lynn's Wife," which promises to be quite as interesting as "Lost Sir Massingberd;" and *Good Words* continues Mrs. Henry Wood's story of "Oswald Cray." The Dean of Canterbury, Isaac Taylor, Doctors Guthrie and Vaughan, and Sir John F. W. Herschel, are the principal writers, while Messrs. Walker, Wolf, Pinnell, and Millais are the chief illustrators.

THE *Eclectic and Congregational Review* has articles on "Joseph Sturge," "Travelling in Norway," "Words and Places," on "Elihu Burrit in our Old Home," and on "Carlyle's Frederick."—*The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, besides its usual matter, illustrated and typographical, contains the continuation of an article on "Classical School and College Education," which we would strongly recommend to the perusal of all parents.—"Bertie Bray" is finished satisfactorily in the present number of the *St. James's Magazine*, and "The Man in Chains" reaches chapter twenty-six. There are also articles from Dr. Maurice Davies, Dr. Wm. Russell, and Dr. Scofield.—In *Christian Work* there are very readable articles by the Rev. Dr. Blaikie, the Rev. Allen W. Gardiner, the Rev. Samuel J. Whiton, and William Gilbert, author of "Shirley Hall."

WE have received also the *Sixpenny Magazine*, the *Alexandra Magazine*, the *Boy's Own Magazine*, the *Boy's Monthly Magazine*, and *Every Boy's Magazine*—the last three illustrated; also the *British Workman*, the *Band of Hope Review*, and the *Children's Friend*—all nicely illustrated. Of the *Magnet Series* we have *The Boatwain's Son*, by W. H. E. Kingston.

OF Pamphlets we find on our table *Reasons for not Signing the Oxford Declaration*; *President Lincoln's Successor*, by Frederick Milnes Edge (Ridgway), who writes strongly from the Northern point of view, and comes to the conclusion that the present chief of the Northern States ought to be re-elected; *A Chapter on Street Nuisances*, by Charles Babbage, Esq. (Murray), the force of whose remarks scholars and invalids can best appreciate; and, from the "National Association for the Promotion of Social Science," *On a Proposed New Court of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*, by George W. Hastings.

WE have received from Messrs. Longman & Co. Part IV. of *Johnson's Dictionary*, by Dr. Latham, the last word of which, on page 320, is *Burthen*; Part VI. of *Homes without Hands*, by the Rev. J. G. Wood, with a clever frontispiece of "The Harvest Mouse;" Part XVI. of *Watts's Dic-*

# THE READER.

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*tionary of Chemistry*, bringing the alphabet down to "Iodides;" and Part VIII. of *The People's Edition of Lord Macaulay's History of England*.—From Messrs. J. H. and J. Parker we have Dean Stanley's *Ordination Sermon at St. Paul's on Trinity Sunday: The Encouragements of Ordination*; and Part VIII of the Third Series of *Tracts for the Christian Seasons*, illustrative of the Trinity, and embracing the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays after Trinity, and the Feasts of St. Barnabas, St. John Baptist, and St. Peter.—We have also received the first part of *Magazin für die Literatur des Auslandes*, published at Berlin, of which Messrs. Williams and Norgate are the London agents, and which we shall take an opportunity of noticing more fully;—No. 5 of the *Art Student*, the June number;—Part IX. of *Our Own Fireside*, from Mr. Macintosh;—No. 8. of the *Autographic Mirror*, containing fac-similes of unpublished letters of Lord Burleigh, George Canning, Lords Palmerston, Melbourne, and Clyde, and of Messrs. Wilberforce, Cobbett, Mignet, Barante, Michelet, and Charles Mathews; a little French fable in verse by Lachambeaudie, and two original sketches by Rowlandson and Thackeray;—and Saunders, Otley, and Morgan's *British Army Review* for June.

DALZIEL'S ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.—Part VI. of the *Illustrated Arabian Nights' Entertainments* contains eleven illustrations by A. B. Houghton and T. Dalziel, and Part IV. of the *Illustrated Goldsmith* ten illustrations, by G. J. Pinwell. These illustrated publications of the Brothers Dalziel are both marvels of beauty and cheapness, and cannot fail greatly to cultivate the growing taste for superior illustrated books which is springing up on all sides, but more especially in our great centres of manufacturing industry, where the sale of mere penny picture trash is rapidly giving place to that of the publications of Messrs. Cassell and the Brothers Dalziel.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

ARNOLD (Matthew). French Eton; or, Middle Class Education and the State. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 122. Macmillan. 2s. 6d.  
ARVISENET TREATISE ON THE DUTIES OF FATHERS AND MOTHERS. Edited by Rev. G. C. White. Fcap. 8vo., cl. 1p., pp. 93. Hayes. 1s. 6d.  
BARWELL (Richard, F.R.C.S.) Guide in the Sick Room. Fcap. 8vo., pp. ix+196. Macmillan. 3s. 6d.  
BASHAM (W. R., M.D.) Croonian Lectures for 1864, delivered before the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of England. The Significance of Dropsy as a Symptom in Renal, Cardiac, and Pulmonary Diseases. With Plates. 8vo., pp. xii+86. Churchill. 5s.  
BORDER AND BASTILLE. By the Author of "Guy Livingstone." New Edition. Cr. 8vo., pp. xii+277. Tinsley. 6s.  
CARPENTER (J. E.) Comic and Humorous Song-Book. In One Volume. 18mo. Routledge. 2s. 6d.  
CARTER (Rev. T. T., M.A.) Life of Sacrifice. A Course of Lectures delivered at All Saints', Margaret Street, in Lent, 1864. 8vo., pp. 102. Masters. 2s. 6d.  
CASSELL'S POPULAR EDUCATOR. Vol. 5. New Edition. 4to., pp. iv+404. Cassell. 5s.  
CASSELL'S POCKET CONCORDANCE TO THE HOLY BIBLE. 32mo., pp. 339. Cassell. 1s. 6d.  
CHANGE (A) and Many a Change. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 275. Hatchard. 3s. 6d.  
CHILDREN OF THE CHAPEL (The). A Tale. By the Author of "Mark Dennis." Fcap. 8vo., pp. 122. Masters. 2s.  
CHURCHMAN'S FAMILY MAGAZINE (The); containing Contributions by the Clergy and Distinguished Literary Men. Vol. 3. With Illustrations. 8vo., pp. viii+376. Hogg. 9s.  
CLEVELANDS (The); or, A Wife's Influence. Sm. cr. 8vo., pp. viii+235. Nisbet. 4s. 6d.  
COOK (Captain James). Life, Voyages, and Discoveries. New Edition. 18mo. Longman. 2s. 6d.  
CORBET (Henry). Tales and Traits of Sporting Life. With Coloured Illustrations. Post 8vo., bds., pp. 202. Rogers and Tuxford. 2s. 6d.  
CORNHILL MAGAZINE (The). Vol. 9. January to June, 1864. 8vo., pp. viii+709. Smith and Elder. 7s. 6d.  
DALTON (Rev. Edward). Life of Joseph considered more especially as a Biographical Type of Christ. In a Course of Lectures delivered in the Cathedral of Waterford. Second Edition. Fcap. 8vo., pp. xii+374. Dalton and Lucy. 3s. 6d.  
DAVIDSON'S PRECEDENTS AND FORMS IN CONVEYANCING. Third Edition. By Charles Davidson, Thomas Cooke Wright, and Jacob Waley. Vol. 2. Part 1. Roy. 8vo., pp. xvi+576. Maxwell. 23s.  
DAWBARN (Elizabeth). Recreation and Usefulness. Fcap. 8vo., pp. 123. Macintosh. 1s. 6d.  
DONKIN. An Etymological Dictionary of the Romance Languages; chiefly from the German of Friedrich Diez. By T. C. Donkin, B.A. 8vo., pp. 482. Williams and Norgate. 15s.  
ESSAYS ON SOCIAL SUBJECTS. From the *Saturday Review*. Post 8vo., pp. viii+305. Blackwoods. 7s. 6d.  
EUCLID'S ELEMENTS OF GEOMETRY. Book 1. Based on the Text of Dr. Simpson. With Exercises. (Scottish School-Book Association.) 12mo., cl., sd., pp. 50. Collins. 6d.  
EUCLID'S ELEMENTS OF GEOMETRY. Books 1, 2, 3, 4. With Exercises. (Scottish School-Book Association.) 12mo., pp. 128. Collins. 1s.  
EVENING WORDS. Brief Meditations on the Introductory Portion of Our Lord's Last Discourse with His Disciples. 18mo., pp. iv+97. J. H. and J. Parker. 2s.  
FAIRBAIRN (William, C.E., LL.D.) Two Lectures on Iron and its Application to the Manufacture of Steam Engines, Millwork, and Machinery, and on Natural Laws, delivered to the Members of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-on-Tyne, December 1863. 8vo., sd., pp. 28. Newcastle-on-Tyne: Lambert. 1s.  
FIRST "STANDARD" (The) Reading and Home Lesson Book. Containing Easy Lessons in Monosyllables, also Writing, Arithmetic, and Spelling Lessons. Adapted to meet the requirements of the Revised Code for Standard I. By two Certificated Masters. 12mo., pp. 64. Simpkin. 4d.  
FITZ GERALD (W. F. Vesey). Eastern and Indian Policy, in Connection with the Nationalities of Europe. Second Edition. 8vo., sd., pp. 36. Westerton. 1s.  
GLADDENING STREAMS; OR, THE WATERS OF THE SANCTUARY. A Book for Fragments of Time on each Lord's Day of the Year. Roy. 32mo., pp. 215. Edinburgh: Nimmo. 1s. 6d.  
GUINNESS. Hymns of the Cross: Selected and Arranged, with Introductory Meditations. By Mr. and Mrs. H. Grattan Guinness. Sq. 18mo., pp. xv+231. Nisbet. 2s. 6d.

HARRAUGH (Rev. H., A.M.) Heavenly Recognition; or, An Earnest and Scriptural Discussion of the Question, Shall we Know our Friends in Heaven? Fifteenth Edition. 32mo., pp. 348. Milner and Sowerby. 1s.  
HARRAUGH (Rev. H., A.M.) Heavenly Home; or, The Employments and Enjoyments of the Saints in Heaven. Sixth Edition. 32mo., pp. 428. Milner and Sowerby. 1s.  
HARRAUGH (Rev. H., A.M.) Heaven; or, An Earnest and Scriptural Inquiry into the Abode of the Sainted Dead. Sixteenth Edition. 32mo., pp. 358. Milner and Sowerby. 1s.  
HERBERT (Auberon). Danes in Camp: Letters from Sonderborg. With Map. Post 8vo., pp. xvi+221. Saunders and Otley. 6s.  
HERSCHEL (Sir John F. W., Bart., K.H.) Outlines of Astronomy. With Plates. Seventh Edition. 8vo., pp. xxiv+729. Longman. 18s.  
HISTORY OF A TURNCOAT (The). Written by Himself, a Narrative of Facts. With Preface by the Rev. Hamilton Magee. 18mo., sd. Dublin: J. Robertson, Hamilton. 6d.  
HUNT'S UNIVERSAL YACHT LIST, for 1864. Obg. 18mo. Hunt. 4s.  
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## MISCELLANEA.

MR. DICKENS has never given to the public a conception more superbly comic in the richest style of grotesque invention than appears in the second part of *Our Mutual Friend*. It ought to be taken note of at once as positively an event or feat. We refer to the notice of Nicodemus Boffin, the retired labourer, who, having come into a little property in his old age, and never having learnt to read, takes his exclusion from the world of print so much to heart that he resolves to break into it in a way of his own. He hires a stall-keeper whom he picks up at a street-corner to come and read to him in the evenings for five shillings a-week—having ascertained that the stall-keeper can read anything in print right off by hearing him read a ballad to a butcher-boy. When the stall-keeper goes for his first reading, he finds that Boffin has laid in for the purpose a book in eight volumes, purchased at hazard for its bulk and binding. This is Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," and the confusion of head into which Boffin gets after his first dose of the Roman emperors is something magnificent.

PARIS and France have been a good deal interested during the last week in a new incident of the Renan business. The author of the "Vie de Jésus" is nominally Professor of Hebrew, Syriac, and Chaldee in the Collège de France—this chair having existed since 1530. But, in consequence of his opinions, he holds the post only nominally, and has been suspended for about two years from its active duties. In order to remedy this anomaly, and to please the French clergy without openly discrediting Renan, the Minister of Public Instruction recommended to the Emperor the other day the suppression of the Hebrew, Syriac, and Chaldee chair in the Collège altogether, and the transference of its funds (about £400 a-year) to a new chair of Comparative Grammar and Philology to be established in the Collège in lieu of a similar chair which has hitherto existed at the Sorbonne, and the holder of which has just died—this abolition of Renan's chair to be made up to him, so far as emolument is concerned, by his appointment to the totally distinct post of Assistant Sub-Director in the Manuscript Department of the Imperial Library, where his theological opinions could do no harm. Accordingly an imperial decree appeared in the *Moniteur* appointing Renan to the new office. There were comments in the French press on this proceeding, most of the newspapers condemning it as an unworthy trucking by the Government to clerical bigotry. Renan's own behaviour on the occasion indicates a similar feeling on his part. He has declined the new office offered him, and, while he bids the minister take, if he chooses, the emoluments of the Hebrew, Syriac, and Chaldee chair, he refuses to consider that chair abolished, or himself deprived of the professorship. In his letter to the minister, alluding to something the minister had said very strongly, to the effect that Renan's drawing the payment for his post without being able to perform its duties was an undesirable anomaly, he says:—"Should you ever reproach a *savant* who confers honour on his country with not earning the paltry sum which the State allots him, believe me, Sir, he will answer you, as I now do, '*Pecunia tua tecum sit*.' Apply, then, the funds voted for the Chair of Hebrew, Syriac, and Chaldee to whatever purpose you think fit. I keep the title, which I hold on the presentation

of the Professors of the Collège de France and of my associates of the Institute. I shall continue to perform without salary the duties which that title imposes on me—that is, I shall labour with all my might in the progress of studies of which the tradition has been entrusted to me." So the matter stands at present; how it will end we know not. Probably imperial energy will have to cut the knot.

SINCE the reconstitution of Dulwich College under the Act of Parliament of 1858 it has been making such way as an educational establishment that there seems promise, as its endowments become available and its wealth increases, of its taking a high place among our public schools. It consists at present of a Lower School for a sound commercial education, and an Upper School for higher training. On Thursday week the institution held its "Speech-day," like our other great schools, and prizes were given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and speeches and recitations delivered by pupils of the Upper School in the presence of a large assembly of ladies and gentlemen. The Archbishop expressed himself as highly pleased with the school, and congratulated both masters and pupils. Among the wants of the College, according to Dr. Carver, the master, are exhibitions to the Universities. No boy, it appears, had been sent from the College to either University for about 250 years until recently, when one who had distinguished himself in mathematics was sent to Cambridge by private means. The number of students in the Upper School is 130; that in the Lower is 80. Increased accommodation is required for these, and the foundation-stone of a new building for the purpose, about half-a-mile nearer to Norwood than the present College, is to be laid next year.

THE "History of Peeblesshire," on which Mr. William Chambers has been engaged for the last two years, is now ready for publication, in two volumes octavo. It is profusely illustrated.

THE Prince of Wales has recently consented to accept the office of Patron of the Church of England Book-Hawking Union, and has forwarded a donation of ten guineas to its funds. The institution was established under the patronage of the late Prince Consort, to aid and further the work of book-hawking throughout the country. The dépôt, Waterloo Place, is open to the inspection of members of all book-hawking associations in connexion with the Union.

IN a letter to the *Times* which appeared on Thursday last, public attention is called to the existence of a direct lineal descendant from Gilbert Shakespeare, the poet's brother, who is now living as a day labourer, in most indigent circumstances, at Wolverhampton, and an appeal is made on his behalf for a small public subscription to place him and his wife and family above want.

WE have to record the deaths of two remarkable men who, born in the humblest walks of life, claim a conspicuous place in the list of minor poets of their respective countries: the one an Englishman and the other a Frenchman. John Clare, the Northamptonshire poet, was born at Helpstone, near Peterborough, in 1793. In 1820 were published, with an introductory sketch of the poet's antecedents by the late Octavius Gilchrist, "Poems, Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery," which rose quickly in public favour, and in reference to which the *Quarterly Review*, then under the editorship of William Gifford, said, "The instance before us is, perhaps, one of the most striking of patient and persevering talent existing and enduring in the most forlorn and seemingly hopeless condition that literature has at any time exhibited." Mr. Clare was a contributor to several periodicals, and in 1821 he published, in two volumes octavo, "The Village Minstrel, and other Poems," which was succeeded, in 1836, by "The Rural Muse." An interesting account of the Northamptonshire poet will be found in Chambers's "Cyclopædia of English Literature." He died on the 19th ult. in the Northamptonshire Lunatic Asylum, of which he had for many years been an inmate.—Jean Reboul, "le Boulanger Poète de Nîmes," died in that city on the 30th ult., aged sixty-eight, where he was born in 1796. The son of a working locksmith, he received but a scanty education, and, for a means of subsistence, followed the calling of a baker when he came to man's estate, selling bread in the morning and devoting his afternoon to the cultivation of the Muses. When he returned from Paris, after the publication of a volume of poems, of which "L'Ange et l'Enfant" has lost but little of its popularity, the good people of Nîmes gave him quite an ovation. M. de Lamartine has immortalized the "poète-ouvrier" in one of his pieces,

"La Génie dans l'Obscurité." In 1848 M. Reboul was elected member of the Constituent Assembly for Gard. In 1850 his "Martyre de Vivian" was brought out at the Odéon. The city of Nîmes has honoured his remains with a public funeral.

THE Complete Works of Archbishop Ussher, which have been for many years in course of publication, have at length been brought to a close by the publication of the seventeenth volume, which contains General Index, &c. This important set of books has been printed at the expense of the University of Dublin, and is published by the University booksellers, Messrs. Hodges, Smith, & Co.

THE author of "Blackfriars" has a new novel in the press, entitled "Superior to Adversity; or, the Romance of a Clouded Life."

ON the 30th instant will appear the first number of *The Geological Magazine, a Monthly Journal of Geology*, edited by Professor Rupert Jones of Sandhurst, and Mr. Henry Woodward of the British Museum. Messrs. Longman & Co. are the publishers; and amongst the contributors to the first number are, besides the editors, Professor Ramsay, and Messrs. Archibald Geikie, Thomas Davidson, W. Boyd Dawkins, S. P. Woodward, and J. W. Salter.

"MEDITATIONS upon Death and Eternity," published, by permission of her Majesty, by Messrs. Triibner & Co., were last year translated into French by M. Charles Bernard Derosne; and M. E. Dentu of Paris has just issued a fifth edition of the volume.

DR. SPYRIDION ZEAS, a member of the Académie de Législation, and a well-known jurist, has recently put forth a volume upon Anglo-Saxon and early Anglo-Norman jurisprudence, under the title of "Législation d'Angleterre, depuis les Temps les plus reculés jusqu'au XII<sup>e</sup> Siècle."

AT the recent sale of the late Mr. John Bowyer Nichols's library at Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge's rooms, the following prices were obtained. They are indicative of the present state of the book-market:—"Ashmole's Berkshire," £11; "Baker's Northamptonshire," five parts, large paper, £18; "Blore's Rutlandshire," £9. 10s.; "Clutterbuck's Hertfordshire," 3 vols., large paper, £15. 15s.; "Dallaway and Cartwright's Sussex," 4 vols., £55; "Dugdale's Warwickshire," by Thomas, 2 vols., £16; "Gough's Sepulchral Monuments," 5 vols., £130; "Hasted's Kent," 4 vols. in 8, illustrated, £63. 10s. 6d.; "Hoare's Modern Wiltshire," 13 parts, large paper, £76; "Hunter's Hallamshire," large paper, £14. 14s.; "Hunter's South Yorkshire," 2 vols., large paper, £15. 5s.; "Hutchins's Dorsetshire," 4 vols., £38; "Manning and Bray's Surrey," 3 vols., large paper, £39. 10s.; "Morant's Essex," 2 vols., £12. 5s.; "Nash's Worcestershire," 2 vols., large paper, £37; "Nichols's Bibliotheca Topographica," 12 vols., £60; "Nichols's Leicestershire," 8 vols., £138; "Nichols's Topographica Britannica," 17 vols., £105; "Ormerod's Cheshire," 3 vols., large paper, £60; "Shaw's Staffordshire," 2 vols., large paper, £35; "Stow's London," 2 vols. in 4, illustrated, £27; "Surtees's Durham," 4 vols., large paper, £23. 2s.; "Thoroton's Nottinghamshire," £13; "Whitaker's Leeds," 2 vols., £6; "Whitaker's Whalley," large paper, £37. 10s.; "Whitaker's Craven," large paper, £29. 10s.; "Wright's Rutlandshire," large paper, £23. 10s., &c. A collection of illustrations—views, plans, maps, &c.—of the different counties of England, consisting of engravings and drawings, arranged in 93 vols., sold for £552. 17s. The entire 1801 lots of which the sale consisted produced £4025. 12s.

ON Wednesday, the 1st inst., the same auctioneers disposed of M. Libri's magnificent collection of illuminated manuscripts and works of mediæval and renaissance art, to which we recently called attention. Lot 16. A knight's shield of the latter part of the fifteenth century, engraved and covered with gilt and silvered ornaments, sold for £12.—Lot 17. Reliquary of St. Thomas à Becket, adorned with cloisonné enamels of the twelfth century, for £29.—Lot 18. A silver Venetian dressing-case of the sixteenth century, for £40.—Lot 19. An inkstand, in gilt metal and lapis lazuli, of the Medici family (probably of Cosmo I.), for £84.—Lot 21. A carved ivory hunting-horn, made for Henry III. of France, for £20. 10s.—Lot 22. Ivory hunting-horn, made for Christian V., king of Denmark, for 18 guineas.—A set of chessmen of carved ivory, Italian workmanship of the sixteenth century, for 46 guineas.—Lot 53. A Latin Breviary, in Byzantine metal binding, of the fourteenth century, for £32.—Lot 54. A monkish Quodlibet, *Legenda S. Mariæ Virginis*, &c., in

early Byzantine figured metallic binding, with enamels, gems, and precious stones let into the binding, for £45.—Lot 55. *Officia Sororum Ordinis S. Augustini*, MS. on vellum of the fifteenth century, in Byzantine binding, for £25. 10s.—Lot 57. *Psalterium Davidis*, &c., in gilt metal Byzantine binding, with cloisonné enamels of the twelfth century, for 70 guineas.—Lot 58. *Justinus, Sallustius, et Florus*, a manuscript on vellum, bound in very rich Byzantine metal cases, with carved ivory plaque and precious stones, Limoges enamels, and crystals let into the binding, for £60.—Lot 59. An account of the funeral rites and ceremonies observed at the interment of Anne of Brittany, in French, MS. on vellum, richly illuminated, the miniatures, considered authentic portraits, by Montfaucon, for £90.—Lot 66. A "Bible Historié," the historical books of the Old Testament paraphrased in French, a superb MS. on vellum of the thirteenth century, with miniature illuminations, for £75.—Lot 70. An unpublished French version of the Gospels of all the Sundays and Fast-days in the year, in verse, a very curious and interesting linguistic manuscript of the twelfth century, for £60.—Lot 84. The romance of the "Histoire de Troye," the "Tale of Troy," a manuscript of the fifteenth century, for £41.—Lot 114. Abbot Smaragdus, the friend of Charlemagne, on the rules of St. Benedict, a Latin contemporary MS. in visigothic letters, for £46; and lot 146, the gem of the sale, *Corpus Juris Canonici*, a manuscript on vellum of the fourteenth century, with numerous miniatures by Giotto and his school, for £130. The 146 lots sold for £1658. 5s. 6d.

MESSRS. ASHER & Co. of Berlin, and Bedford Street, Covent Garden, have in the press, "Shakespeare in Germany in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries; with an Account of English Players in Germany during the same Epoch: by Albert Cohn;" "The Creation of the World, a Cornish Mystery: Edited, with a Translation and Notes, by Whitley Stokes;" and "Groteste's Château d'Amour, a Fourteenth Century English Translation: Edited by R. F. Waymouth."

OUR English word "Humbug" has been engrafted into the German language. "Nicht alles ist Humbug" is the title of an essay in the *Magazin für die Literatur des Auslandes*.

KARL JAHN'S "Augusta, Grand-Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a Biographical Sketch" (of the Princess Augusta of Cambridge), has been translated from the German into English by J. Rafter, and published at Schwerin.

THE first portion of the Russian account of the defence of Sebastopol, published in Russian under the supervision of General de Todleben, has been translated into French, and published in two volumes at Paris. The second portion will appear in the course of next year.

IN announcing the death of the Marchioness of Barolo, in whose house Silvio Pellico passed the last twenty years of his life, *La Presse* of the 29th ult. says: "We have every reason to believe that several important unpublished writings of the prisoner of Spielberg are still extant, which were confided to the care of the marchioness by Pellico." These have been claimed by his natural heirs, according to *L'Italie*—in fact, by his sister—and proper steps are being taken with a view to secure them for publication. Amongst them are said to be two autobiographical manuscripts, the one embracing the period before that of "Mes Prisons," and the other an interesting portion of the writer's life after its publication.

THE new *Moniteur de Soir* will henceforth contain a full sheet and be authorized to receive advertisements.

A MUCH contested point—the age of the Porta Nigra at Trèves—which has been variously set down as belonging to the Constantine, Frankish, and Merovingian times, is now set at rest. Professor Hübners has written a paper in the Transactions of the Berlin Academy, in which he proves it beyond doubt to belong to the first century after Christ. A number of hitherto overlooked Roman names cut into the stones (by the tourists of the period) leave no further doubt about it.

THE *Moniteur* publishes a report from the Minister of Public Instruction, in which the latter proposes that the annual distribution of prizes instituted by the Sorbonne for the pupils of the Lycées of Paris and Versailles be extended henceforth to the whole of France. The Emperor has sanctioned the proposal; and there will henceforth be annual competitions at each of the Provincial Academies, the successful papers of which will be likewise free from military service and will have free admission to all the University Lectures, &c. One of the chief reasons given by

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the Minister for the desired innovation is the necessity of "preventing the whole mental stream of the country from flowing to Paris exclusively; the interest of the land requiring altogether a revival of life in the provinces."

THE Roman Amphitheatre at Nîmes is to be restored at the expense of a Society of Amateurs, and plays are to be performed in it during the summer months.

ALPHONSE KARR is going to return to Paris, in order to resume again his journalistic functions as editor of the *Figaro*.

"NACH MEXICO" is the title of a new sensation comedy brought out at Vienna with great success. *A propos* of Mexico, it may also be recorded that the new emperor has ordered the new patriotic Mexican hymn of Aubert, in Paris.

BRAMBACH, "Inscriptionum in Germaniis repertarum censura;" Ritschl, "Priscæ Latinitatis Epigraphicæ Suppl. IV.;" "Liber Miscellaneus editus a Societate Philologica Bonnensi;" Feddersen, "Schleswig-Holstein: Lyrisch-Dramatisches Gedicht;" Held, "Deutschland, der Deutsche Bund und die deutschen Grossmächte," are among the most noticeable books of last week's German booksellers' reports.

CHINESE Literature is making way in Germany. Here is the pleasant name of a handbook for the use of students, just published at Frankfurt:—"Hantsewên-fachoukouangtsongmou; Bibliotheca Sinologica, als Wegweiser zur Sinologischen Literatur."

A LIBRARIAN of the Vienna Library has discovered, in a work published at the end of the sixteenth century by Becker in Cologne, with a drawing of the town of Czeslau, the portrait of Ziska, with the inscription "Vera Effigies Joannis Ziska."

DIELMANN'S statue of Schiller was unveiled a few weeks ago at Frankfurt, in the presence of a great number of his most eminent countrymen. There was also present the only existing grandson of Schiller—Herr von Gleichen-Thienen.

THE most recent excavations at Pompeii have yielded, besides a bronze statuette of Silenus, another most important discovery. Hitherto no well with water had ever been found in Pompeii; during these excavations, however, a subterranean room was laid open, with an altar, complete bathing-arrangements, and a well 25 metres in depth, in which the most excellent drinking-water was found. Professor de Lucca of Naples has subjected it to a chemical analysis, and is soon to communicate the results.

A CURIOUS find was made a short time ago at Mehadia, near the Græco-Oriental church, which is in the course of being demolished. Nearly 2000 pieces of Roman coins, beautifully preserved, each of a different stamp, were found by a workman a few feet under the ground. It was probably a collection of coins hidden during the Turkish war. Unfortunately, the coins have been disposed of for a mere nothing, in small batches, to private individuals, and the collection is thus dispersed for ever.

STRAUSS'S "Leben Jesu" is being translated into French by himself, Neffzer, and Dollfuss, the editors of the late *Revue Germanique*.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Anonymous Communications cannot be inserted.)

### VICTOR HUGO'S BOOK ON SHAKESPEARE.

To the Editor of THE READER.

SIR,—I have read, in your number of the 14th ultimo, a review of the new work of Victor Hugo entitled "William Shakespeare;" and, although I agree with the writer of that article that in whatever Victor Hugo writes one may always find powerful language, images of great beauty, and striking thoughts, yet it must be confessed that he is often guilty of unwarrantable trifling with the public, and in no instance more than in the above-named work. Common sense has a right to protest. It is, perhaps, one of the most extraordinary books of the season. Not only is there great affectation in style, but the matter is a most incredible mixture of heterogeneous subjects quite irrelevant to Shakespeare, and the grossest ignorance is shown of the facts connected with the life and works of our great poet. We are told, in the first place, that Shakespeare began life as a butcher's apprentice, slaughtering sheep and calves, and composing verse in his leisure moments. We are further informed that he afterwards became a schoolmaster, an attorney's clerk, and then a poacher; that he was imprisoned for deer-stealing, escaped, and came to London. His first means of gaining his livelihood in the great

metropolis was, it seems, by holding horses at the doors of the various theatres (*à la porte des théâtres*); and from this employment he was promoted to be a *call-boy*—that is to say, the boy whose functions it was to call the actors when they were required on the stage. Has a larger amount of preposterous nonsense ever been condensed within the limits of a few pages? But we have not done yet. We are informed in a succeeding chapter of the chronological order in which Shakespeare wrote his plays, beginning with "Pericles," in 1589. The composition of each play is made by Victor Hugo to connect itself with some contemporary historical event, which event has not the most remote correspondence either with Shakespeare or with his plays. We will quote a few of these eccentric passages:—"Pericles" was written when James VI. of Scotland was paying court to Queen Elizabeth, in order to become her successor to the English throne. "Henry VI." appeared in 1591 when the King of Spain was meditating a second armada; "The Taming of the Shrew" in 1593, when the Jesuits received the Pope's permission to decorate their college at Clermont in Savoy with works of art; "The Winter's Tale" during the expulsion of the Moors from Spain, under Philip III.;" and so on throughout the chapter.

Is there any conceivable reason why these contemporary events should be brought into connexion with the works of Shakespeare? A few pages further on we are told that Queen Elizabeth reigned forty-four years without even knowing that Shakespeare existed! And, after his death, adds our well-informed author, he was so completely forgotten that, in 1707, Nahum Tate published a tragedy called "King Lear," giving out to the public that he had taken the subject from an obscure piece. Now is it credible that Victor Hugo, whose son has so carefully studied our great dramatist, should be ignorant that all this nonsense has been long since blown to the winds, and that Halliwell, De Quincey, and many others have proved, upon undeniable evidence, that Nahum Tate, in making his assertion, was uttering a conscious falsehood?

It happens, moreover, that "King Lear" was one of the few Shakespearian dramas that retained its original form untouched. If Shakespeare was so entirely forgotten at the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century, how is it that the editions of his works succeed each other so rapidly, by Rowe, Pope, Theobald, Bishop Warburton, &c., &c.? As to his existence being ignored by Elizabeth, there is contemporary proof against the truth of that statement in the lines of Ben Jonson, his great friend:—

"Sweet Swan of Avon! what a sight it were  
To see thee in our waters yet appear,  
And make those flights upon the banks of Thames  
That so did take Eliza and our James!"

These crowned heads were, then, among Shakespeare's admirers? Did not Milton also address a laudatory sonnet to his memory? But why need we say more? Is it not proved now by solid arguments that Shakespeare's reputation was from the beginning steadily gaining ground? How, then, can Victor Hugo write anything so absurd as this: "Il a fallu trois cents ans pour que l'Angleterre commençât à entendre ces deux mots, que le monde entier lui crie à l'oreille: William Shakespeare!"

Perhaps we have given too much time to all this folly in a writer who is so ignorant of his subject as to assert that, until 1664, there was only one edition of Shakespeare. Victor Hugo's name, however, carries no ordinary weight with it, and even in this work he displays much learning where he gives us disquisitions on Æschylus, Homer, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Hippocrates, Pythagoras, Juvenal, Lucretius, and a host of other great names incongruously jumbled together. These unconnected discussions extend from Orpheus and Hermes to Fulton and Mongolfier. As this book may be very influential in misleading the French in their conception and appreciation of our great bard, I have felt it almost a duty to call attention to the numerous errors of the writer.—Yours, &c. D.

## OUR STREETS.

To the Editor of THE READER.

"My dear," said my wife this morning, coming in somewhat late to breakfast, "can nothing be done to lessen that horrible crunch, crunching? They have thrown down a thick new coat of macadam on our nice quiet street, making the noise of carriages absolutely unbearable, and there is not a hope of its being better whilst the London season lasts. We might as well live in a power-loom factory, or a quartz-crushing mill; the passage

from one side of the street to the other is not fit for human beings! The draymen are obliged to whip their horses to force them to drag their loads, though the poor brutes are tugging till they are ready to drop down dead. Yesterday I saw a nurse trying to get her perambulator over; but it stuck fast in the middle; a monstrous big four-hand waggon came crushing forward at the time; and, but for the politeness of the waggoner, who picked up the perambulator in one hand and the nurse in the other, and landed all safe on the pavement, the whole three might have been trodden to death. Only fancy our dear little Arthur being daily exposed to such risks! It is too horrible to think of. Can't you complain to the police, and claim the benefit of the Nuisance Act, as they are doing in the organ-grinding case? Can't you prevail upon the Humane Society, or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to interfere in the matter? Can't you, in a quiet way, speak to the Home Secretary, or the Lord Chancellor, or the First Lord of the Treasury, or the Bishop of London, or some other influential personage, to take up the cause?" To which I replied, "As well speak to the Colossus of Roads! or to the Wild Man of the Woods!" "Well, then, Adam, can't you bring it before the House of Commons? What is the use of your being in Parliament if you cannot put a stop to such barbarities? I wish I were a Member only for a week. Would not I make them mend their ways in a very different fashion! If something be not done, I give you fair warning that I shall be off to the country again, and leave you and the girls to grin and bear it as you best may." This was rather a poser; so I said, "My dear Clara, I shall see what can be done. You know that public opinion is more powerful than Parliamentary opinion. I shall appeal to the public through the pages of THE READER."

Now, then, Mr. Editor, I hope you will not begrudge me a column in so good a cause. It seems to me (and with all due respect be it said) that our London macadamizers go about their work in a very unscientific way. They cover our best streets with a thick stratum of big stones, broken and unbroken, and leave the world at large to break them down and make them smooth as best it may; and this in our greatest thoroughfares requires eight or ten days, and in quiet streets as many weeks. During this period of transition the public traffic is grievously retarded; both man and beast are overtaken to the utmost; and the streets of London are no more passable than the dry bed of a mountain-torrent. Nor do affairs mend till a large portion of the stones is ground down into powder—thus forming a cement for the general mass. But this cement is only skin deep; the under half of the stones remains without cement; heavy drays easily displace the fragments, causing pits and hillocks, and rendering frequent picking and levelling necessary. I venture to propose, in laying down a new stratum of stones, that enough *fine gravel*, or, perhaps, better still, enough of the dry sweepings of the streets to fill up the interstices, be mixed with the fragments. I feel confident that the streets, thus prepared, would be pleasant to drive over in two or three days; that the fitting, and picking up, and levelling down would be in a great measure avoided; that such a road would be much more durable; and that a great saving to the State would thus be effected. VIATOR.

## "ME" versus "I."

To the Editor of THE READER.

Hampstead, June 7, 1864.

SIR,—The first thoughts forced uppermost on reading Mr. Moon's letter in your impression of Saturday last in reply to mine were the old and hackneyed, but never-to-be-forgotten-as-long-as-the-world-stands "Much ado about nothing,"—"Parturiunt montes; nascetur ridiculus mus." His candid admission that I am right deserves, and has, my best acknowledgments. Why, having abandoned his fort, he should have thought it necessary to open such a heavy battery to remove a few loose bricks from the parapet I cannot conceive, unless, like some other generals, finding he could do no execution, he thought it indecorous to retire without at least a display of noise and smoke. Having yielded the point he had assumed, that the antecedent must take the case of the relative, he has nothing left to contend for. The passages of Scripture may be filled up as I suggested, "*It is I*" [whom you see]—"I am he" [whom ye seek]—which I still think the most natural, or as Mr. Moon suggests, or in any other way that may appear to the reader more consistent with the context. No doubt the translators were right in the use of the pronouns; they exercised

no "just discrimination;" they simply knew how to write correct English, and wrote it. Had they written otherwise in the instances in question, they would have shown themselves incompetent for the task they had undertaken.

I now unexpectedly find myself face to face with a more formidable antagonist; and it is with no little diffidence that I enter the lists with such a profound philologist as Professor Key. His letter, however, in last Saturday's READER fails to convince me that *me* is a nominative or any representative thereof. Admitting that the pronoun has dropped an initial *m* at some period of its history, as that *m* does not appear in the Teutonic branch (so far as I am aware; I write with no means of reference at hand), and as it is not the custom of languages to resume what has once been dropped, the probability is that no form with *m* ever reached the English language. Again, although the vowel has become *e* in the Greek and Latin, *I* has persistently maintained its place in all the Northern languages with which our own is more or less immediately connected, and appears in the Gaelic *mi* and in the French *moi*. From this, therefore, I think the more natural inference is that *me* is no representative of the nominative case of the first personal pronoun, and that the English *I* stands alone, divested of all changeable parts, the sole representative of a long line of ancestors; and I confess I should much regret to see it displaced by, or forced to share its time-honoured dignity with, a plebeian *me*.

That "It is *me*" is a mere vulgarism arising from ignorance appears to me further evident from the fact that the same persons who indiscriminately use that expression use also "It is him," "It is her," "It is them," "They was," and a number of others equally elegant. Whoever defends one must defend all. Now I do not despise the study of these vulgarisms; they will sometimes help us to a little of the history of language; but, if they are to be recognised as essential parts of it, the sooner we throw away our grammars and adopt phraseological dictionaries in their place the better. The study of the English language will then become as formidable an undertaking as that of Chinese, or more so. That barbarisms sometimes force themselves into recognition is undeniable; but, by their adoption, the language should, and usually does, gain something. By the recognition of *me* as a nominative the English language would gain nothing; on the contrary, it would lose in precision—the use of one form for two distinct things introducing ambiguity where now there is none. Until, therefore, much stronger evidence and more cogent reasons are adduced in favour of *me* as a nominative than I have yet seen, I must maintain my former position that it has no claim to that distinction; that "*It is I*" is the only legitimate expression where "*I*" is the predicate of "*It is*," and that "*It is me*" is allowable where, and only where, it is not the predicate, but the objective to a verb understood and clearly indicated by a foregoing question or context.—I am, &c.,

F. L. SOPER.

#### "IT IS ME."

To the Editor of THE READER.

Holford House, Regent's Park, N.W.  
SIR,—In reading over Mr. Key's letter in your last impression, it strikes me he has taken infinite pains to prove a point that, I think, has of late been rarely denied. This is the more superfluous because, in the discussion as to the correctness of the expression, such a point should not be introduced.

Mr. Key proves that "*me*" is properly the nominative of our personal pronoun, *etymologically*; but our nominative has for years been "*I*," and such it will ever remain. The vexed question is, whether we are to employ the accusative or nominative in such a case—not, as Mr. Key says, adopt a new nominative in order to prove the correctness of an old idiom.

My opinion is—introduce as few idioms as possible into a language redundant with them, and therefore adhere to and perpetuate "*It is I*."  
—Yours, &c. H. GAMBLE HOBSON.

#### SCIENCE.

##### ANNUAL VISITATION OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

WHEN, in 1710, Queen Anne issued her warrant appointing the President of the Royal Society and others Visitors of the Greenwich Observatory, her gracious Majesty little thought of the great treat she was preparing for others less severely interested in the good conduct of the Astronomer-

Royal who are permitted to accompany the official inspectors. This year's visitation, which took place last Saturday, was one of peculiar interest. The Astronomer-Royal's printed Report contains 27 pages—full of valuable matter, as we hope to show; and—a circumstance which has not occurred for some two or three years—the day was fine enough to admit of observations with the S. E. Equatorial for the first time since its erection, a hasty glimpse of Venus last year excepted. And so it happened that the existence of "willow-leaves" or "rice-grains" on the sun was tacitly assumed as one of the most important among the *questions du jour*; and the magnificent 13-inch, or, to be exact, 12.75 inch, was anxiously appealed to for evidence by many of the observers present, Mr. Nasmyth among the number.

It was a pity that the atmosphere was not a little more favourable; for we hold that this question is one which can be best settled by such an occasion as that offered on Saturday last. As it was, however, the old battle of atmospheric conditions *versus* large apertures was raging, and a particularly fine spot and object glass were both powerless to solve the matter. We may remark, however, that two brilliant patches pointed out as willow-leaves, standing out against the dark background of the nucleus, did not present that appearance to us when we observed them somewhat late in the day during a fit of good definition.

It is time, however, that we pass on to the Report presented by the Astronomer-Royal, giving first notice to the astronomical observations, to which, "by long tradition," as Mr. Airy remarks, the first place in importance is ascribed.

The number of meridional observations with the transit-circle from 1863, May 17, to 1864, May 20, is as follows:—

Transits (the two limbs being considered as two objects)	3729
Pairs of observations of the collimators by the transit-circle	304
Reflexion-observations of the transit-wires	295
Observations of collimator by collimator	61
Circle-observations of all kinds	3999
Reflexion-observations of the zenith-distance-wire	309
Reflexion-observations of stars	260

Sixty-four pairs of observations of  $\gamma$  Draconis with the Reflex-Zenith-Tube have been made. The numbers of observations with the Altazimuth are—

Azimuths of moon and stars	672
Azimuths of the collimator	356
Zenith-distances of the moon	364
Zenith-distances of the collimator	356

The whole number of days on which complete determinations of the moon's place have been obtained with both instruments is—

With the altazimuth, 190, or 15.2 per lunation.  
With the transit-circle, 111, or 8.9 per lunation.

The instruments are all in admirable condition for future work, and the reduction of the work already accomplished is in a most satisfactory state.

The convention made with M. Le Verrier relating to the minor planets is found to afford much relief; and we are glad to learn that both series of observations will be published by both Observatories.

Among the alterations made which at once struck the eye, that in the Magnetic Observatory was most obvious; the pillars erected in anticipation as supports of M. Otto Struve's geodetic instruments, which are shortly expected, also attracted attention. The alteration made in the Magnetic Observatory is an important one. For several years past various plans have been under consideration for preventing large changes of temperature in the room which contains the magnetic instruments. A subterranean room has now been constructed to effect this. The work was begun in the last week of January, and in all important points it is now finished. Bricks were selected which were almost free from magnetism.

During the excavation the observations of Declination, Horizontal Force, and Vertical Force were necessarily suspended.

In the preparations for mounting the instruments in their new location the following points are remarked upon in the Report:—

The declination-magnet (a new 2-feet magnet by Mr. Simms) is carried by a pier, whose upper part protrudes through the floor of the upper room, for the sake of giving greater length to the suspending-wire.

For the support of the horizontal-force-magnet a pier is built of brick, stone, and slate, which, like that of the declination-photographic-magnet,

projects through the upper floor into the upper room. The suspending cords of these three instruments are of steel wire: although no practical reason exists for objecting to the silk skeins, yet, on theoretical grounds, the Astronomer-Royal has determined to make this change.

The new vertical-force instrument differs from the old one in the following points:—The length of the magnet is eighteen inches instead of two feet. Its ends are pointed; a construction indicated by Lamont as giving great magnetic power, which, however, is not successful in the present instance. The knife-edge also is one continuous piece of steel, and the whole of the frame which connects the knife-edge with the magnet is of iron. It will be interesting to note whether any practical advantage attends these modifications.

The Astronomer-Royal calls attention to a result of late observations which has given him great anxiety.

The variations in the power of the horizontal-force and the vertical-force magnets depending on temperature were determined several years ago with very great care by experiments in which the magnet was immersed in water of various temperatures. It is evident, however, that this form of experiment does not exactly reproduce the circumstances of a magnet whose temperature depends on that of the external air. The opportunity given by the command of the hot-air stove, constructed entirely of copper, and heated by gas, provided for the warming of the magnetic basement, was considerably seized by the Astronomer-Royal to experiment with air.

The result of these experiments is to give a coefficient for temperature-correction *four or five times as great as that given by the water-heatings*. And this applies to both the magnets (horizontal force and old vertical force), in which the two systems of experiment have been compared. A large coefficient is also given for the new vertical-force magnet, though much smaller than that for the old one, when tried in the same manner.

Some new dip needles have been mounted by the Astronomer-Royal, in order, if possible, to prevent, by change of form, the change of position which they occupy when raised or lowered, a change arising possibly from a small wandering of the magnetic axis. The breadth of the needle, instead of being in the plane transverse to the axis of rotation in the new needles, is in the plane passing through the axis of rotation. A numerical comparison has been made between the extreme discordances of the field-of-view-readings of the needle-points, and the means of extreme discordances are:—

For an ordinary needle	11' 45"
For the new flat needle	3 27

It appears, therefore, that the discordance is owing to a cause peculiar to ordinary needles, as distinguished from flat needles (which cause the Astronomer-Royal still attributes to inconstancy in the position of the magnetic axis), whose action cannot be annihilated. He therefore considers it certain that the small probable errors which have been attributed to ordinary needles are a pure delusion.

The self-registering apparatus for the record of results of the earth-current wires is ready in all important points; but its mounting is delayed for the completion of the magnetic basement.

The mean magnetic declination for 1863 is about 20° 46'; the diminution from the preceding year about 6'. The mean dip for 1863 is about 68° 4'. The diminution from 1862 appears to be about 7'. The dip at the present time appears to be 68° 2'.

The meteorological instruments are in good order. A barometer for public information has been erected near the entrance gate of the Observatory. The graduated face only is exposed. Upon this the scale of graduations are much enlarged, and indexes exhibit not only the present state of the barometer, but the last maximum and the last minimum.

The vane of Osler's anemometer made about +28.5 complete revolutions in the year 1863—the largest number that has yet been observed.

In the latter part of the summer steps will be taken by Mr. Otto Struve, whose visit has been before alluded to, for the telegraphic determination of the differences of longitude between Greenwich and some station on the Continent, and between Greenwich and some point near Milford, as portions of the great Arc of Parallel which is to extend from Orsk, on the river Oural, to Valencia. Mr. Airy remarks:—"The initiation of this enterprise was made by Mr. Struve, and much of the primary work was done by Mr. O. Struve. I hold it to be my duty

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therefore in no way to interfere with Mr. O. Struve's plans; but to place the Observatory, and myself, and the influence which I may command among the telegraphic or other institutions of the country, entirely at his service; and, as a zealous subordinate, to take every possible measure for carrying out his design."

We now come to the part of the Report which deals with time-signals, which, as we read, "Viewing the close dependence of Nautical Astronomy upon accurate knowledge of time, there is, perhaps, no department of the Observatory which answers more completely to the original utilitarian intentions of the founder of the Royal Observatory."

The time-signal-ball at Deal is dropped daily automatically, and time-signals are sent daily to great distances—as Glasgow and Cardiff—and on the principal railways in various directions. Time-signal-guns are fired daily at Newcastle and Shields. The Post-Office clocks are regulated mechanically, and signals are sent for regulating the Westminster clock; and all these, as well as the Deal ball, automatically report the success of the effect of the current which left the Greenwich clock.

We should give our readers credit for very little sagacity did we stop to point out the enormous value of these time-signals. It would seem, however, that the Boards of Trade and Admiralty fail to appreciate it. This we learn from an addendum to the Report, in which the Astronomer-Royal places on record some plans of proposed action relating to a system of hourly time-signals at the Start.

Mr. Airy remarks:—"It will be remembered by the Board of Visitors that, after consideration of the reasons which I adduced, and the methods of galvanic communication and manipulation which I explained, the Board, at their Visitation of 1862, deputed a selection of their members, accompanied by myself, to wait on his Grace the First Lord of the Admiralty, and to request his favourable attention to the proposal; and that, in the course of the summer of 1862, an answer was received, conveying the substance of communications referring to this proposal which had passed between the Board of Admiralty and the Board of Trade, of which the conclusion was, that the Board of Trade possessed no funds applicable to the defraying of the expenses attending the execution of the scheme. *This answer was not laid before the Board of Visitors or known to myself till the Visitation of 1863. As it did not fully explain the intentions of the Board of Admiralty, I applied to them in the autumn of 1863, requesting to be informed whether the Admiralty considered as possible the establishment of these time-signals under their own authority; and I received their reply that they do not at present contemplate that measure.*"

The italics are ours. The facts speak for themselves. The deputation of the summer of 1862 is not replied to till the summer of 1863, and then so unintelligibly that the meaning of the reply has to be written for!

Mr. Airy, "trusting that the establishment of these signals is only deferred for a few years,\* and thinking it probable that advantage may result to the system which will hereafter be adopted," then gives the following details, showing with what consummate care and intimate knowledge of its practical side the suggestion has been thought out:—

"The Admiralty possess telegraphic wires passing underground from the Admiralty Telegraph-Office, in Whitehall, through the principal street of Deptford, towards Deptford Dockyard, Woolwich, and more distant places. The Royal Observatory possess telegraphic wires passing from the Observatory to a house in Deptford called Gothic House, through which one of the Admiralty wires is led; and here, at any moment, such communications of wires can be made that the galvanic currents from the Admiralty will all pass to the Observatory and back to Gothic House (by what is technically called 'a loop'), and thence proceed towards Deptford Dockyard and Woolwich.

"When an interruption is made at the Observatory, then currents can be sent direct from the Observatory to the Admiralty Telegraph-Office.

"The wire of the Deptford speaking-instrument in the Admiralty Telegraph-Office can be joined with a wire of the Devonport speaking-instrument in the same office. The wire from the Telegraph-Office to Devonport is continuous, and is good, liable only to some interruptions from occasionally receiving the spray of the sea beyond Exeter.

"When these connexions are made there is unbroken metallic communication from the Royal

Observatory to the Admiralty Office at Devonport, sufficiently good to insure the transmission of Greenwich signals with the regularity required for giving the information by which the Devonport superintendent can adjust his clock, and also sufficiently good to insure the transmission of automatic signals from the Devonport clock to Greenwich, by which the officers of the Royal Observatory will see the error of the Devonport clock; but not sufficiently good to insure the regular dropping of a time-signal at the Start, if wires should be continued from any part of the Devonport telegraph-wire to the Start.

"The distance, however, from Devonport to the Start is so much less that it may be expected that no difficulty will be experienced in dropping a time-signal at the Start by the agency of a galvanic battery and automatic clock at Devonport.

"The first section, then, of the proposed operations must consist in such arrangements as will secure the accuracy of a clock at Devonport, and the second section must consist in such arrangements as will secure the accuracy (by automatic action of that clock) of the signal-drop at the Start, and will also secure a register at Devonport (by automatic action of the Start mechanism) of the actual success of the signal-drop in a form which will admit of convenient transmission to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

"It was proposed that the time-signal at the Start should be a skeleton ball about 8 feet in diameter, dropped through a space of 12 or 16 feet. The locality selected for it is a rock behind the Start lighthouse, called 'The Boy.' The height of the mast on which it should be raised would be determined after inspection from the sea; but no great height would in any case be necessary. It was proposed to commence with day-signals only; but night-signals would be given by a mere change of galvanic communication at the Start, which would enable the galvanic current to drop a small weight, whose fall would fire a quantity of gunpowder sufficient to produce a flash visible at the distance of several miles.

"The following collateral advantages would attend the establishment of this system of signals:—Accurate time-currents would be given at Devonport, which could be made subservient to the public exhibition of time-signals, either at Mount Wise, or on the Devonport Column. A commencement would be made of coast-telegraph, available for military purposes. Facilities would be given for a commercial telegraph from the Start Point to Dartmouth, much desired by persons connected with the mercantile marine."

We have thought it right to give Mr. Airy's suggestion at some length that our readers may judge for themselves in the matter. Its rejection is little to the credit of the two public departments interested in its adoption. The Astronomer-Royal deserves all our thanks for volunteering this addition to his own labours, and the idea of *hourly versus the present daily* time-signals is characteristic of his practical mind.

We conclude our notice by acknowledging the courtesy of the Observatory Staff, whose skill and zeal have enabled Mr. Airy to render so good an account of his stewardship. J. N. L.

#### THE SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS OF DUBLIN.

[SECOND ARTICLE.]

**THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.**—About the year 1782 a literary society existed in Dublin who called themselves Palæosophers, and in 1785 another society sprang up, of a more scientific character, who called themselves Neosophers. These then joined to form one society, and letters patent were issued on September 25th, 1785, incorporating them as the Royal Irish Academy for the encouragement of Science, Polite Literature, and Antiquities. Their constitution consisted of a President; a Council of twenty-one, equally divided into three Committees, one for each of the three objects of the Academy; four Vice-Presidents, to be nominated by the President; a Treasurer; a Librarian; a Secretary; and a Secretary of Council. Lord Charlemont was the first President, and he was succeeded by Kirwan, Lord Charleville, Brinkley, Provost Lloyd, and Sir W. Hamilton. During the presidency of the latter, in the year 1839, the term of the office was limited to five years; and it has since been held by Dr. H. Lloyd, Dr. Romney Robinson, Dr. Todd, and by the Very Reverend Dr. Graves, Dean of the Chapel Royal, who now holds the office.

The Royal Irish Academy is a conjoint representative of the three London societies called the Royal Society, the Antiquarian Society, and the

Society of Polite Literature; it has published twenty-three quarto volumes of Transactions, containing numerous valuable papers in the three subjects, and is recognised in Ireland as the acknowledged head of the learned societies, in the same way that the Royal Society is in England.

It has a large and valuable library especially rich in the Transactions of other learned and scientific societies throughout the world, and a valuable Museum of Irish Antiquities, of which an admirable catalogue, beautifully illustrated, has lately been compiled by Sir W. Wilde, and published by the Academy. The cost of this work, together with that of the registration of all the articles therein, was defrayed partly by a sum voted by the Academy, partly by a large subscription among its members, and partly by a Government grant.

In the year 1788 the Academy was granted the use of a house in Grafton Street belonging to Government, previously called the Navigation House. This it retained till 1852, when it removed to the house formerly called Northland House, next the Mansion House, in Dawson Street, the rent of which is paid by the Board of Works, who also built, at the public expense, some large rooms at the back for its museum and library.

In the year 1800 the imperial Parliament gave a grant of £1000 to repair the house in Grafton Street, and £50 per annum to keep it in repair.

In 1816 this was raised to £300 per annum for the general purposes of the Academy, which was augmented in 1852 to £500 per annum. Small special grants also have been made from time to time for specific purposes, such as the purchase of valuable manuscripts or antiquities.

One curious result of the fetters imposed by the reception of an annual Government grant has developed itself in the meetings of the Royal Irish Academy, and that is the impossibility of the members getting a cup of tea to moisten their lips after the discussions. The whole of the accounts of the Academy have to be submitted to the Audit-office, who would disallow any expenditure on refreshment of any kind. A small special subscription among the members was tried, but failed from the difficulty always experienced in collecting small sums. Any one who frequents the meetings of the Royal, the Geological, or other scientific societies in London, can appreciate the loss of the little social chat on the events of the evening over a cup of tea after the formal meeting has dissolved.

All the eminent men in Ireland who have distinguished themselves either in abstract science or in the sciences of experiment or observation, all the most learned antiquarians and archæologists, and those who have been most famous in literature, have been members of the Royal Irish Academy, which, by the dignity of its demeanour, as well as the value of its labours, has always worthily upheld the reputation of Ireland.

**THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND** was instituted on May 10th, in the year 1830, when a portion of ground in the Phoenix Park was assigned to it by the Lord-Lieutenant. This was taken formal possession of in July of that year, and a plan for laying out the Gardens was ordered from Mr. Decimus Burton. This plan was laid before the Society in November 1832, but it was not till May 1833 that the bye-laws were framed, a President appointed, and the Gardens opened to the public.

In 1837, soon after her accession, her Majesty was graciously pleased to become the Patroness of the Society, and the style of "Royal" was officially authorized by a letter from Colonel Yorke to Sir P. Crampton, then President of the Society.

The Society consisted of members paying £1 annually, with an entrance fee of £1, or a life composition of £10, and Garden subscribers, who merely enter their names in a book at the gate and pay £1 annually. The public are admitted on payment of sixpence each; but, on holidays and on Sunday afternoons, and after 5 p.m. in the summer, the admission is only one penny. The plan of the Sunday afternoon penny admission was adopted many years ago, and has not only had the best results for the people, but become one of the chief supports of the Society, the amount of the penny admissions being often double that of the annual subscriptions, and much greater than the sixpenny admissions. For the year ending May 1863 the total receipts were only £1628. 1s. 5d., of which the penny admissions gave £471, the sixpenny admissions £347, and the annual subscriptions £250. The expenses for that year amounted to £1742. 11s. 5d., of which £344. 17s. was paid for salaries and wages, and £758 for the keep of the animals.

\* Italics still ours.

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The Society never received the amount of support which it deserved at the hands of the Irish public or the citizens of Dublin, and it was only enabled to drag on its existence through the famine years of 1848 and thereabouts by the indefatigable care and exertions of the late Dr. Robert Ball, its Secretary, and a few other public-spirited individuals.

In 1854 the Council memorialized the Lord-Lieutenant for some Government aid, which was granted to them through the intervention of the newly-established Department of Science and Art, who placed on the estimates a sum of £500 to be paid through the agency of the Royal Dublin Society. In return for this agency it was stipulated that members of the Royal Dublin Society might become members of the Royal Zoological Society without payment of an admission fee, or life members by payment of £7, instead of £10.

The animal collections of the Royal Zoological Society have never been large, but have always comprised some interesting birds and mammals. They have been especially successful in breeding young lions, upwards of thirty having been sold during the last few years, the progeny of one noble animal, who unfortunately died of fever during the past winter. Two lionesses have, however, brought forth posthumous families since his decease, through whom it is hoped the stock may be continued.

The Gardens are beautifully situated on one side of a small lake in the Phoenix Park, across which the mountains of Dublin and Wicklow afford a picturesque background to the view. Up to the present time the other side of the lake has been left open and undefended, the consequence of which has been much depredation on the Gardens and the impossibility of keeping any stock of water-fowl on the lake. The Government, however, have just granted permission to fence in the ground all round the lake, provided the fence be of a light ornamental character which will not obstruct the view. A subscription, headed by a donation of £25 from her Majesty, is now in progress for the purpose of paying for this fence. Could still further funds be raised, so as to make the houses and cages in the Gardens more spacious and suitable, and the whole be once placed in a good permanent condition, the Gardens of the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland might, in proportion to their extent, be made equal to any in the world in usefulness, and would be surpassed by none in beauty of site and in general attractiveness. As it is, they are often found fault with for deficiencies and shortcomings, and more especially by those who, perhaps, have never contributed anything beyond one solitary sixpence towards putting them on a better footing.

**THE MUSEUM OF IRISH INDUSTRY.**—This, notwithstanding the fantastic no-meaning of the name it now bears, is in reality the sister institution of the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street. The Geological Survey of Great Britain was commenced in 1832 by Sir H. De la Beche, and carried on for some years partly at his own expense, partly by assistance from the Ordnance Survey. The Museum of Economic Geology was founded in Craig's Court about 1835 to contain the collections made by Sir Henry, and in the year 1839 he obtained the sanction of the Treasury for a system of lectures on Practical Geology in connexion with the Survey and Museum as soon as the necessary arrangements should be made for their delivery. Meanwhile the Ordnance Survey in Ireland had likewise established a geological branch, under the superintendence of the late General Portlock, who, in its prosecution, made a valuable collection of botanical, zoological, and geological specimens. In the year 1848, however, the geological branch of the Irish Ordnance Survey was suspended, and in the beginning of 1845 the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom was commenced, with Sir H. De la Beche as "Director-General for the whole empire," under the Chief Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and an Act of Parliament was passed in July of that year to give powers to carry it on. It was at the same time determined by the Government of the late Sir R. Peel to found a Museum of Economic Geology in Dublin like that in London, to receive the collections made by the Geological Survey, to contain the Geological Survey Office, and to be the centre of a lecture-system like that intended for London. Sir R. Kane was appointed Director of the Museum in Dublin; a house was taken there on the east side of Stephen's Green; and plans and estimates drawn up for its conversion into a Museum of Economic Geology, *pari passu* with those for building the Museum in Jermyn Street, London. In each case these plans included a

large lecture-theatre and preparations for the delivery of lectures by the officers of the Survey and other men of science associated with them.

In the year 1847, however, Sir R. Kane procured leave from the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests to change the title of the Museum in Dublin to that of the "Museum of Irish Industry," thus bringing it into closer connexion with the work for which he was then most known—viz., the "Industrial Resources of Ireland"—and giving it a wider scope than the Museum in London. This change of title, however, was so far unfortunate that it obscured the original intention for which the Museum was founded, and nominally detached it from the Geological Survey, while it also nominally brought it into collision with the "Royal Dublin Society for the Encouragement of Husbandry and other useful Arts in Ireland." This collision was, however, nominal rather than real, inasmuch as that Society had then no industrial collections; and it was impossible to found any institution for the encouragement of any art or science without trenching on ground which the Royal Dublin Society had not vainly endeavoured to occupy at some period or other of its existence.

The house in Stephen's Green was taken possession of in August 1846, and in the year 1849 the first vote was taken in Parliament for adding wings to it and building the galleries and the lecture-theatre over the garden at the back. The building grant was spread over a period of four years, and the vote for fittings, &c., only passed in 1853; so that the Museum was not completed till the spring of 1854. Its total cost then had been £10,283. The house and wings contain the different offices, work-rooms, library and laboratory, with apartments for the house-steward and servants. The Museum at the back consists of two storeys, each containing three galleries running round the three sides of a central quadrangle, while the lecture-theatre occupies the fourth side. This structure affords great facilities for the arrangement of the different collections in the Museum. The lower storey contains the Inorganic products, the upper the Organic ones. The Inorganic objects consist of collections of ornamental marbles, building stones, rocks, minerals, ores, coals, ironstones, and clays, with the articles manufactured from them either in metal, pottery, or glass, and such of the processes of manufacture as can be exhibited. The upper storey contains a large series of Irish and British fossils, about 17,000 specimens being exposed to view, named and tableted, and from 8000 to 10,000 more in the drawers, most of which are also tableted. Among these are the fossils collected by the late General Portlock, chiefly in the North of Ireland. It also contains a series from his collections of the Irish fauna, which leads to a gallery filled with animal and vegetable products and manufactures.

As a good working Museum, indeed, for imparting information or instruction, this Museum of Irish Industry may fearlessly challenge the inspection of any competent judges, and, considering the time it has existed, and the scanty means afforded to its director and officers, will contrast favourably with any museum in the world.

We have yet a word or two to say on the lecture-system connected with it. The buildings in Jermyn Street, London, were completed in 1851, and the lecture-system there was commenced in November of that year, Sir H. T. De la Beche alluding in his Inaugural Discourse to its having been sanctioned by the Treasury twelve years previously, although it could not be commenced till the proper buildings were provided for it. When, in 1845, the Government extended the Geological Survey and Museum to Ireland, it is obvious that it was their intention to establish a lecture-system in connexion with it there also, or else the plan of the Museum would not have included a lecture-theatre. In the meantime, however, the Geological Survey and its associated institutions had been removed from the superintendence of the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests and placed under the Board of Trade, and in 1852 the Department of Science and Art sprang into existence out of the ruins of the great Exhibition of 1851. Dr. Lyon Playfair was made Secretary for Science, and Mr. Henry Cole for Art. Dr. Lyon Playfair, who first came into notice as Chemist to the Geological Survey, was thus virtually placed over his old master, Sir H. De la Beche, and the institutions of which the latter was the real founder; and he also acquired control over the Royal Dublin Society. The whole were still kept under the Board of Trade, until the year 1856, when advantage was taken of the lectures delivered at these institutions to bring them under the Committee of Privy Council for

Education, who very naturally regarded the Professors attached to them merely in the light of so many schoolmasters.

In the year 1854, the Lecture-theatre in the Museum of Irish Industry being completed, Dr. Lyon Playfair came over to Dublin, in order to set on foot the lecture-system there on a similar basis to the one then in action in Jermyn Street. For this purpose it was deemed necessary to include in it the Professorships of the Royal Dublin Society. It was not apparently expected that that body would offer any opposition to the scheme, inasmuch as they had never seemed to set any great value on their Professorships, and had never established any systematic plan of practical-science instruction. It might well have been supposed, indeed, that no body in Ireland who pretended to be animated by patriotic motives or zeal for the public good would have opposed the extension to Ireland of a scheme which had been set going in England for the good of the public there and the more economical and practical development of the mineral resources and manufacturing industry of the country.

We believe, therefore, that it was with no slight astonishment and dismay that Dr. Lyon Playfair and the Vice-President of the Board of Trade (then Mr. Cardwell) beheld a great agitation raised in the Dublin Society, violent speeches made at their meetings, and deputations sent to London of Members of Parliament and other influential personages belonging to them, protesting against the proposed interference of Government with their august body, and expressing "surprise and regret that the Government should have thought of establishing such an institution as the Museum of Irish Industry in such close proximity to themselves." The unlooked-for "Irish row" that thus assailed them had such an effect on Dr. Playfair and Mr. Cardwell that they were only too happy to consent to any compromise that might appease it.

This compromise was that a Committee of Lectures, half to be nominated by the Government and half by the Society, should be formed, and that the Professors, under the style of Professors of the Department of Science and Art, should lecture at both institutions under the auspices of this Committee of Lectures, so far as concerned "the lectures common to the two institutions," whatever that might mean. The consequence was that the Professorships were limited to the four subjects formerly lectured on in the old desultory *dilettante* manner at the Royal Dublin Society, and that each Professor had to give a course of lectures "free to the public" at each institution, in order that the Committee might appear to have something committed to them, before he could commence his real course of practical instruction to an actual class of students who were willing by a small payment to evince their *bond fide* desire of learning something. Lectures "free to the public" must necessarily be more or less adapted *ad captandum vulgus*, and, like all things that cost nothing, are generally about worth what is given for them. No zeal on the part of a lecturer can long hold up against an audience of listless curiosity-seekers or hunters after amusement and beguilers of a leisure hour. The free audiences in Dublin, moreover, have been infested by boys and girls who came in to play, and by children brought in by their parents, in the hope, apparently, that they might catch some science as they would the measles or the whooping-cough. In the theatre of the Royal Dublin Society this nuisance is made still greater by all the front half being kept exclusively for members and their families; so that the lecturer has often seen many of those whom he knew to be real students relegated to the back seats among a crowd of casual listeners, and sometimes this has been the case when the front seats have been but partially filled. It was stipulated, indeed, on the part of the Royal Dublin Society that their members should have free admission even to the paid lectures given in the theatre of the Museum of Irish Industry, though, to do them justice, it does not appear that any inconvenient number of them ever availed themselves of the privilege.

Thus stunted of its fair proportions it is little wonder that the lecture-system arising from the Irish branch of the Geological Survey has never attained the strength and utility of that which has grown up and flourished in London.

The free action of the Director and the Council of Professors in Jermyn Street, unencumbered by the assistance of boards or committees, and unfettered by the dictation or management of external meddlers, has developed itself in the establishment of a most useful institution, every officer of which works "with a will," while all combine to increase

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its utility in any direction that opens itself. They have voluntarily taken on themselves the courses of "Artisan Lectures," given to artisans of an evening at a small payment for the course. Any one who has been present on these occasions, when the whole theatre has been crammed with an eager, intelligent crowd of working men, must have seen how the earnestness of the audience reacted on the mind of the lecturer, so as to elicit from him the most strenuous efforts to impart that which he had to teach. Such popular courses would doubtless be as successful in Dublin as in London, while lectures "free to the public" would have as much tendency to degenerate into namby-pamby platitudes in one place as the other. In each case, however, merely popular lectures are not the ends for which the institutions demand public support. The thorough instruction of the few who are to take part in the practical direction of our mining, metallurgical, and manufacturing industries throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies is the real object to be attained, since that instruction is not to be obtained in any other institutions than those based on the Geological Survey, and will, when obtained by a sufficient number, repay to the public the whole cost of the establishments in the increased economy and the new inventions and discoveries introduced by its possessors.

J. B. J.

## BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE.

AS far back as 1842 the British Association did a good service in calling attention to the necessity of regulating somewhat our zoological nomenclature, and in issuing a code of rules for general guidance. Since that time till last year, from sundry causes which will be found detailed in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* for October 1863, the attention of the Association has not been specially brought to bear on the subject, either as to the working of the rules or their general adoption. At the Newcastle meeting of the Association, however, the great importance of the subject was recognised, and a Committee was constituted "to report on the changes which they may consider it desirable to make, if any, in the rules of nomenclature drawn up at the instance of the Association by Mr. Strickland and others, with power to reprint these rules, and to correspond with foreign naturalists and others as to the best means of insuring their general adoption."

We trust that, at the Bath meeting, the Committee will be able to give a good account of their labours. In the interim, Professor Asa Gray, in *Silliman's Journal* for March of the present year, taking for granted that the improvement of Natural History nomenclature in general is contemplated by the new Committee, makes the following very practical suggestions with regard to the application of the rules as they stand at present to botanical names.

After recommending that the admirable code proposed in the "Philosophia Botanica" of Linnaeus be reprinted, with indications of the rules which, in the lapse of time, have become inoperative, or which were from the first over nice, he continues:—

"Proposing here to comment only upon the few propositions which seem to us open to doubt, we venture to suggest that the '§ 2. The binomial nomenclature, having originated with Linnaeus, the law of priority in respect of that nomenclature is not to extend to the writings of antecedent authors,' is perhaps somewhat too broadly stated. The essential thing done by Linnaeus in the establishment of the binomial nomenclature was, that he added the specific name to the generic. He also reformed genera and generic names; but he did not pretend to be the inventor or establisher of either, at least in Botany. This merit he assigns to Tournefort, in words which we have already cited in this *Journal* (vol. xxv., p. 134); and he respected accordingly the genera of Tournefort, Plumier, &c., taking only the liberties which fairly pertained to him as a systematic reformer. While, therefore, it is quite out of question to supersede established Linnaean names by Tournefortian, we think it only right that Tournefortian genera, adopted as such by Linnaeus, should continue to be cited as of Tournefort. So, as did Linnaeus, we prefer to write *Jasminum*, Tourn., *Circæa*, Tourn., *Rosmarinus*, Tourn., *Tamarindus*, Tourn., &c. Indeed, it is not fair to Linnaeus to father upon him generic names, such as the last two and many more, which Linnaeus specially objects to, as not made according to rule. Specific names, of course, cannot antedate Linnaeus, even if the descriptive phrase of the elders were of a single and fit word.

"§ 10. A name should be changed which has before been proposed for some other genus in Zoology or Botany, or for some other species in the same genus, when still retained for such genus or species.' The first part of this rule is intended, we presume, to be the equivalent of No. 230 of the *Philosophia Botanica*: 'Nomina generica plantarum, cum zoologorum et Lithologorum nomenclaturis communia, si a Botanicis postea assumpta, ad ipsos remittenda sunt.' We submit that this rule, however proper in its day, is now inapplicable. Endlicher, who in a few cases endeavoured to apply it, will probably be the last general writer to change generic names in Botany because they are established in Zoology. It is quite enough if botanists, and perhaps more than can practically be effected if zoologists, will see that the same generic name is used but once in each respective kingdom of nature.

"§ 12. A name which has never been clearly defined in some published work should be changed for the earliest name by which the object shall have been so defined.' Very well. And the good of science demands that unpublished descriptions, and manuscript names in collections, however public, should assert no claim as against properly published names. But suppose the author of the latter well knew of the earlier manuscript or unpublished name, and had met with it in public collections, such name being unobjectionable, may he wilfully disregard it? And as to names without characters, may not the affixing of a name to a sufficient specimen in distributed collections (a common way in Botany) more surely identify the genus or species than might a brief published description? Now the remarks of the Committee, prefixed to § 12, while they state the legal rule of priority, do not state, nor in any way intimate, that a wilful disregard of unpublished names, especially of those in public or distributed collections, is injurious, dishonourable, and morally wrong. In the brotherhood of botanists, it should be added, custom and courtesy and scientific convenience in this respect have the practical force of law, the wilful violation of which would not long be tolerated; and the distribution of named specimens, where and as far as they go, is held to be tantamount to publication.

"As to the recommendations for the future improvement of nomenclature, in passing under review the 'Classes of objectionable names' we wonder that geographical specific names should have been objected to: we find them very convenient in Botany, and, next to characteristic names, about as good as any. Comparative specific names in *oides* and *inea*, &c., are much used by botanists, and are often particularly characteristic. Specific names derived from persons, used with discretion, and as far as possible restricted to those who have had to do with the species, as discoverer, describer, &c., are surely unobjectionable. Generic names derived from persons are, we agree, best restricted to Botany, where, when appropriately applied, they are in good taste, if not too cacophonous. As to closely-resembling names, in large genera it may sometimes be best to 'call a species *virens* or *virescens*' when there is already a *viridis*. Anagrams, like puns, if not cautiously handled and particularly well made, are intolerable. But what can be prettier, among unmeaning names, than R. Brown's *Tellima*? Botanists will hardly agree that a good generic name which has been effectually superseded by the law of priority should never afterwards be bestowed upon some other genus of some other order. 'It has sometimes been the practice, in subdividing an old genus, to give to the lesser genera so formed the names of their respective typical species.' The Committee objects to this usage because the promotion calls for new specific names. To us it seems a natural and proper course, when the name of the species in question is substantive and otherwise fitting—most proper when (to take a not uncommon case) one used generically in the first place by ante-Linnaean naturalists or herbalists.

"But the objection of the Committee is probably connected with a peculiar view which they have adopted as to the way of citing species which have been transferred to some other than the original genus. Here many zoologists, and a few botanists, have been giving themselves much trouble and perplexity, as it seems to us, to little purpose. Take for illustration our Blue Cohosh, originally *Leontice thalictroides* of Linnaeus, but afterwards, in Michaux's *Flora*, taken as the type of a new genus, and therefore appearing as *Caulophyllum thalictroides*. Now, if we adopt the view of Linnaeus, to which he would probably

have adhered had he lived till now, we write the name and the authority thus:—

*Leontice thalictroides*, Linn.

(Syn. *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Michx.)

The abbreviated names of the authors appended stand in place of the full reference—e.g., Linn. Sp. Pl. 1, p. 448, and Michx. Fl. Bor.-Am. 1, p. 205, tab. 21. If the other view be adopted, it stands, in fact—

*Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Michx.

(Syn. *Leontice thalictroides*, Linn.)

But, fearful lest the original describer should be robbed of his due credit, it has been proposed to write—

*Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Linn.

This is not only an anachronism of half a century, but an imposition upon Linnaeus of a view which he had not, and perhaps would not, have adopted. To avoid such fatal objections, it has been proposed to write *Caulophyllum* (Michx.) *thalictroides*, Linn., which is not only 'too lengthy and inconvenient to be used with ease and rapidity,' but too cumbrous and uncouth to be used at all. And, finally, the Committee propose to write—

*Caulophyllum thalictroides* (Linn.) (sp.)—

which is scarcely shorter, or even to leave out the (sp.) The reader is thus to note that Linnaeus originally gave the specific name *thalictroides*, but not the generic. Who did must be otherwise ascertained. A pretty long experience convinces us that much confusion is risked or trouble expended, and nothing worth while secured, by these endeavours to put forward the original rather than the actual application of a specific name. Ante-Linnaean nomenclature broke down in the attempt to combine specific appellation with description. Here the attempt is to connect it with the history of its origin, which, after all, can be rightly told only in the synonymy. The natural remedy for the supposed evil which this mode of citation was to cure is, to consider (as is simply the fact) that the appended authority does not indicate the origin, but only the application at the time being of the particular name; and so no one is thus robbed of his due. The instructed naturalist very well knows the bibliography of species, or where to look for it: the tyro can learn.

"§ C. Specific names should always be written with a small initial letter, even when derived from persons or places:—on the ground that proper names written with a capital letter are liable to be mistaken for generic. (But no naturalist would be apt to write the name of a species without that of the genus, or its initial, preceding.) Also, 'that all species are equal, and should therefore be written all alike.' The question is one of convenience, taste, and usage. As to the first, we do not think a strong case is made out. If mere uniformity be the leading consideration, it might be well to follow the example of the American author who corrected *Ranunculus Flammula* Linn. and *R. Cymbalaria* Pursh, into *R. flammulus* and *R. cymbalaria*! As to taste and usage, we suppose there would be a vast preponderance against the innovation, so far as respects personal names and those substantive names which Linnaeus delighted to gather from the old herbalists, &c., and turn to specific use—e.g., *Ranunculus Flammula*, *R. Lingua*, *R. Thora*, *R. Ficaria*, and the like. Adjective names of places and countries, Linnaeus printed with a small initial—e.g., *R. lapponicus*, &c. DeCandolle writes such names with a capital letter; and this best accords with English analogy, but has not been universally adopted, and probably will not be.

"§ F. It is recommended that, in subdividing an old genus in future, the names given to the subdivisions should agree in gender with that of the original group.' The practical objection to this is, that old names should be revived for these genera or subgenera, if there be any applicable ones, which is likely to be the case in Botany."

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

WE refer elsewhere somewhat at length to the Visitation of Greenwich Observatory on Saturday last, and to the Report read by the Astronomer-Royal to the Board of Visitors. We may here especially mention that part of the Report which refers to an hourly time-signal at Start Point, which was proposed to the Admiralty by Mr. Airy as long ago as the summer of '62, and the importance of which, both to our navy and merchant service, it would be impossible to over-estimate. After the usual expenditure of red-tape and correspondence which had to be referred back for explanation, the Board of Trade pleads "want of funds," although the Government already pos-

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sesses a through-wire to Devonport; and the Admiralty decline to do anything in the matter, as, let us remind our readers, it declined when the time-ball system itself was suggested. The science which aids and saves our mariners, and which is abroad and appreciated in the work-a-day world, is evidently not the science in favour with our Government. They prefer scientific twaddle and Halls of Science at South Kensington.

We may remind our readers that the *Soirée* held by the President of the Royal Astronomical Society at Willis's Rooms takes place this evening (Saturday) at 9.30. Mr. De La Rue has, we hear, prepared a rich astronomical treat for his *invités*.

It has long been a matter of surprise to us that Geology, which is second to none of the sciences either in the value of the facts acquired in its domain, or in the popular interest attaching to them, has been so feebly represented in our scientific literature. We are glad to be able to inform our readers that this obvious gap is about to be filled up, and in the most satisfactory manner, by a periodical the prospectus of which has just reached us. The conductors of this new monthly—Professor Rupert Jones and Mr. Henry Woodward—evidence, by their list of supporters and contributors, that they possess the full confidence of every geologist and palæontologist of note in the three kingdoms, and of very many on the Continent of Europe. Original communications on geological and kindred subjects, and translations of important foreign memoirs, together with correspondence, reviews, miscellaneous reports, notices, &c., form the programme which the editors place before us in the prospectus. Papers on "The Present Aspects of Geological Science," by Professor Rupert Jones; on "The Geology of the Sahara," by Professor Ramsay; and on "Special Indications of Old Volcanic Action at Burntisland, Frith of Forth," by Mr. Geikie, are among those promised for No. 1. The publishers and editors of the *Geological Magazine* have evidently not hastily undertaken the task which lies before them; with a modesty which does them credit they remark that, "having consulted the most eminent geologists and palæontologists of the day (amongst whom may be mentioned Sir Philip Egerton, Sir Roderick Murchison, Sir Charles Lyell, G. Poulett Scrope, Esq., Professors Sedgwick, Phillips, Owen, Ramsay, Morris, and Huxley, and Dr. Falconer), they are not unaware of what will be expected of them." We do not fear disappointment.

For the same month (July) another scientific journal is announced, our weekly contemporary, the *Electrician*, commencing a new series in the monthly form, and with several new claims for the support of all interested in that wide range of knowledge, dealing with electrical phenomena and the various uses—telegraphic uses especially—now made of the subtle fluid which gives rise to them. The various branches of the Review, which also embraces applied science, are to be placed under the direction of gentlemen of long experience and universally-admitted authority, and arrangements are being made for establishing a thoroughly efficient staff of correspondents in all parts of the world.

THE *Moniteur Belge* announces the death of Professor Waitz, which took place a short time back. He was born in 1821 at Gotha, from whence he proceeded to Jena and Leipzig, where he studied philology and mathematics. Soon afterwards, however, he turned his attention to philosophical studies, and in 1842-43, in the course of a journey through France and Italy, he collected materials for a new edition of Aristotle's "Organon," which appeared at Leipzig in 1844-46. In 1848 he obtained an extraordinary professorship at Marburg, which he held until his death. He was the author of "Grundlegung der Psychologie," "Lehrbuch der Psychologie als Naturwissenschaft," and "Allgemeine Pädagogik," the general tendency of which is to expose the inconsistencies of the idealistic philosophy of the school of Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel, both as regards the matter and also the manner of their teaching. He sought to make psychology the groundwork of universal philosophy, thus showing an approach to the system of Kant. He will, however, be better remembered, in this country at least, as the author of "Anthropologie der Naturvölker," of which a translation of the first part, under the title of "Introduction to Anthropology," was published last year by the Anthropological Society. He was diligently labouring at the preparation of the concluding portions of this work only a short time before his death, and wrote confidently to his friends in England respecting the time when the work would be in a complete state. He was a strong advocate of the unity of the human species.

We described a few weeks ago a barometer with an enlarged scale which had been exhibited at the Royal Society and at the Society of Arts; it appears, however, that the principle of its construction had been anticipated by Amontons in 1695, and Mr. Whiting in 1862. Amontons's barometer is what is termed the "conical barometer," in Sir John Leslie's article in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 7th edition, vol. iv., p. 390, published in 1842, the actual form adopted by Mr. Hicks, the exhibitor of the one we mentioned, having been described in the same article at p. 391:—"The most accurate construction of a barometer of this kind [the conical barometer] is attained by joining together two tubes that have even but unequal bores, the longer and narrower being uppermost. If the width of the upper tube were supposed to be to that of the under one as two to three, the scale would be enlarged three times, since, by descending three inches from the top, and consequently two at the bottom, the column would suffer a contraction of one inch in height. This species of barometer is thus recommended by its simplicity and its ample range. But the bore of the tube being indispensably small, the mercury moves with difficulty, and resists the influence of minute changes of external action." Mr. Whiting's instrument, exhibited at the *Soirée* of the Royal Society in 1863, was the enlarged scale barometer described as above, but it had at the lower end of the column of mercury a small float of glass inserted carrying a disc of ivory fitting loosely into the tube, the object of which was to enable tubes of larger bore to be used and get rid of some of the capillary attraction, which causes a sluggishness of action in the tubes of smaller bore. Also, page 400 of the same article, Sir J. Leslie says:—"A modification of the conical barometer in travelling we have ourselves employed. The principal part consists of a small steel stop-cock (*vide fig. 13*); a glass tube 31 or 32 inches long, with a bore of the tenth part of an inch, sealed at top and filled with quicksilver, is cemented into the one end of the stop-cock, and into the other end is cemented an open and wider tube 16 inches or more in length, and having its diameter above the eighth of an inch. This compound tube is lodged in a walking-stick, divided into inches and tenths through its whole extent, or only at the upper part." As regards this latter form, adopted by Mr. Hicks for travelling purposes, or as a standard barometer, the scale reading both ways, with a vernier at each end, the only part of the instrument claimed by Mr. Hicks as his invention is a very decided improvement on the mere division of the scale into inches and tenths as described by Leslie, and adds materially to the value of the instrument.

*Cosmos* for the 26th ult. describes a new and exceedingly simple electrophorus now in use at the Sorbonne for lighting, by means of electricity, the gas-burners in the great hall.

MR. PENGELLY, who is President of the Torquay Natural History Society, deserves general thanks for his introductory address recently delivered to that body. Not only was it admirably adapted for fostering the love of Science among his auditory, and keeping them *au courant* with its progress, but, in its published form, it is destined to be more generally useful. Why does a Society which numbered Mr. Couch, and numbers Mr. Pengelly, among its members not publish its proceedings?

#### PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES. PARIS.

Académie des Sciences, May 23.—M. BOUSSINGAULT presented a specimen from Quito of the *Pseudacanthias (Pimelodes cyclopus)*, a fish ejected from the volcanoes of the neighbourhood. He also read a continuation of his paper "On the Growth of Vegetation in the Dark."—Fizeau—"Researches on the Dilatation and Double Refraction of Heated Rock Crystal." He found that the indices of refraction of both the ordinary and extraordinary ray were diminished, the latter with the greater rapidity. It follows, therefore, that in this crystal, which is positive or attractive, the extraordinary being greater than the ordinary index, the values of the two indices approach each other, and the separation of the two rays becomes less as the temperature increases. This valuable paper (to which we shall probably return) contains a description of a very elegant optical method for determining the dilatation of certain bodies by heat.—Some correspondence was read on the subject of the meteor of the 14th ult., of which we shall give an account next week.—Besgue—"On Bernoulli's Numbers."—Guyon—"On the Discontinuance of

Febrile Cephalalgia produced by compressing the Temporal Artery." For this purpose the author proposes to use a steel band, bent into the form of a semicircle, furnished with pads, similar to those of trusses, which is to surround the head, the pads being adjusted to press on the temporal arteries. He suggests that it will be found useful to relieve the pains in the head experienced in cases of yellow fever, but admits at the same time that the principle is not altogether new. The space between the head and the steel band might facilitate the application of refrigerants.—Matteucci—"On Electrical Earth-Currents."—Donné—"On the Spontaneous Decomposition of Impregnated Eggs—a Contribution to the History of Spontaneous Generation." The author took a number of eggs which, having been allowed to remain under the hen for different periods, were left to putrify. In no case did he find the slightest trace of either animal or vegetable life upon breaking the shell of the putrified eggs. He considered that, as long as the shell remained intact, no germs could by any means obtain admission; and therefore the circumstances of the case were peculiarly favourable for experiment as to the possibility of spontaneous generation. M. Milne-Edwards, however, stated that M. Panceri had shown that the shell is not always impervious to the passage of organized bodies.—Gaudry—"On the Discovery of the Genus *Palæotherium* in the Upper Calcaire Grossier of Coucy-le-Château (Aisne)." This paper contains a description of remains of a species of this genus found some years ago at Coucy, and for which the name *P. codiciense* is proposed. The points of resemblance between it and the typical genus *P. annectens* (Owen) are noticed.—Grimaud—"On Rivers and their influence on Industry and the Public Health." After insisting on the necessity of keeping rivers perfectly uncontaminated with the sewage of towns, the author adds that his theory, if it did not even inspire, at least gives a timely support to, the sanitary measures now being carried out in London.—Faivre—"On the Circulation and Functions of the latex in *Ficus elastica*." The conclusions at which he has arrived are, that the latex is a sap elaborated by the leaves, and that it is indispensable to the development of the parts of the vegetable, and that it descends in the centre and periphery of the stem, is carried to the extremities, and nourishes them. It is also raised to the upper parts of the axis which are thereby increased.—Jordan—"Memoir on the Groups of Equations Solvable by Radicals."—Tripier—"On the Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra by Galvanic Cauterization." The case described was that of a man aged sixty-two, and who was submitted to this treatment with perfect success. The current should be of tolerably high tension and low intensity.—M. de Marigny exhibited some specimens of galena and bornite (purple copper, *Phillips*) obtained artificially. He also described his process, and made some remarks on the theory of the formation of mineral veins, which he considers to be due to the influence of heat emitted by vast subterranean fires, and that the metals and metalloids have been condensed from the gaseous state in the fissures of the older formations produced by the elevation of plutonic rocks.—Vigouroux—"On the Nature and Treatment of Epilepsy, Hysteria, and some other Diseases."—Pinson—"On Silk-worms attacked by the *Pébrine*."—Wurtz—"On the Products of Oxidation of Hydrate of Amylene, and on the Isomerism of the Alcohols." He does not regard the hydrate of amylene, or pseudo-alcohol, which he discovered, as a binary compound of water and amylene, and considers it as isomeric with amylic ether. In the latter, five atoms of carbon are in direct combination with eleven atoms of hydrogen, the twelfth unit necessary for the saturation of the five atoms of carbon being furnished by the double atom of oxygen. It may be allowed that in the hydrate of amylene the eleventh atom of hydrogen is held less strongly than the corresponding atom of the amyl group,  $C_5H_{11}$ . This eleventh atom is that which is fixed by hydriodic acid when it combines with amylene ( $C_5H_{10}HI$ ). In the hydrate,  $C_5H_{10}H(OH)$ , ( $OH$ ) replaces the iodine of the hydriodic acid.—Reboul—"On the Bromides and Hydrobromates of Valerylene." By acting on valerylene with an excess of bromine, he obtained a tetrabromide,  $C_{10}H_8Br_4$ , which is heavy, thick, remains liquid at  $-10^\circ$ , and is isomeric with the bromide of bibrominated amylene. He also obtained two isomeric forms of a brominated tetrabromide ( $C_{10}H_7Br$ ) $^4Br_4$ .—Berthelot—"On the Action of Iodine and Hydriodic Acid on Acetylene."—Vionnois—"On the Action of Percolating Water on Embankments."

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## LEARNED SOCIETIES.

Royal Society, May 26. Major-Gen. Sabine, President, in the chair.—THE following papers were read:—"Investigations on the Specific Heat of Solid Bodies." By Hermann Kopp. Communicated by T. Graham, Esq., F.R.S.—After discussing the earlier investigations on specific heat, and on the relations of this property to atomic weight and composition, he gives a complete analysis of the various opinions published on the subject. The author's method for determining the specific heat of solid bodies is based on the method of mixtures. It is very simple, and it brings the determination of specific heat within reach of the ordinary apparatus of the chemical laboratory. It is also applicable to small quantities, and to such substances as cannot bear a high temperature. He discusses the deficiencies and advantages of this method as compared with those of Neumann and of Regnault. In the third part the author gives his determinations of a very great number of solid bodies, which, as a rule, agree with those of Neumann and Regnault; but, where there is a considerable difference, the cause is discussed. The greatest number of the experiments are on substances whose specific heat had not been previously determined; they extend to all the more important classes of inorganic compounds, and to a great number of organic compounds. In the fourth part the author gives a synopsis of the materials at present available and trustworthy for considering the relations between specific heat and atomic weight or composition. That is, he gives, for solid bodies of known composition, the atomic formula, the atomic weight, the more accurate determinations of specific heat, and, corresponding to these, the atomic heats or products of the specific heats and the atomic weights. The relations between the atomic heat and the atomic weight or the composition, and also the variations of the specific heat of a body, with its different physical conditions, are discussed in the fifth part. This difference is inconsiderable, as is also the difference of specific heats found for the same substance, according as it is hammered or annealed, hard or soft. With dimorphous varieties of the same substance, even where the specific gravity is different, the same specific heat is found in both cases. Great difference had been supposed to exist in the specific heat of a substance, according as it was crystalline or amorphous. The author shows that, for a great number of substances, there is no such difference, and that in other cases the differences depend on inaccurate experiments. He shows that three sources of error, more especially, may give too great a specific heat for a substance, or for one of its various modifications. 1. When the substance is heated to a temperature at which it begins to soften, and thus to absorb part of its latent heat of fusion. 2. If the substance is heated to a temperature at which it begins to pass into another modification; and this change, with its accompanying development of heat, is continued in the water of the calorimeter. 3. If the substance investigated is porous, and (as was the case in the earlier methods) is directly immersed in the liquid of the calorimeter, in which case the development of heat which accompanies the moistening of porous substances comes into play.

The author arrives at the following result:—From what is at present known with certainty, one and the same body may exhibit small differences with certain physical conditions (temperature, or different degrees of density or porosity); but these differences are never so great as to furnish an explanation of cases in which a body markedly deviates from a regularity which might perhaps have been expected for it, always assuming that the determination of the specific heat, according to which the body in question forms an exception to the regularity, is trustworthy and free from foreign elements.

The author then discusses the applicability of Dulong and Petit's law. The atomic heats of many elements\* are, in accordance with this law, approximately equal; they vary between 6 and 6.8, the average being about 6.4. The explanations attempted why this law only approximately holds good, he considers inadequate. A regularity, to which attention has been already drawn, is, that

\* In accordance with recent assumptions for the atomic weights, H=1; Cl=35.5; O=16; S=32; B=10.9; C=12; Si=28. R stands for a monoequivalent atom—e.g., As=75; Na=23; K=39.1; Ag=100; R signifies a polyequivalent atom—e.g., Ca=40; Pb=207; Fe=56; Ga=63.4; Cr=52.2; Pt=184, &c.

the quotient obtained by dividing the atomic heat of a compound by the number of elementary atoms in one molecule is approximately equal to 6.4; equal, that is, to the atomic heat of an element according to Dulong and Petit's law. According to the author's determinations, it is even found in the case of compounds which contain as many as seven, and even of nine elementary atoms. It is near 6.4 in the case of those compounds which only contain elements whose atomic heats, in accordance with Dulong and Petit's law, are themselves approximately=6.4. It is less in those compounds containing elements which, as exceptions to Dulong and Petit's law, have a considerably smaller atomic heat than 6.4, and which are found to be exceptions, either directly, by determinations of their specific heat in the solid state, or indirectly, by the method to be subsequently described.

After Dulong and Petit had propounded their law, Neumann showed that the atomic heats of analogous compounds are approximately equal. Both these laws were confirmed by Regnault, who has also shown that the elementary atoms, now regarded as monoequivalent, are, as regards the atomic heat of their compounds, comparable with the elementary atoms which are to be considered as polyequivalent. Thus, as regards atomic heat, arsenious acid,  $As_2O_3$ , and sesquioxide of iron,  $Fe_2O_3$ , or chloride of silver and subchloride of copper,  $GaCl$ , may be classed together. Much interest is presented by his results in reference to the applicability of Neumann's law to compounds, to which it had not hitherto been suspected to apply. In comparing compounds as regards their atomic heat, their chemical character has been taken into account, as represented by the formulæ hitherto adopted. According to more recent assumptions for the atomic weights of the elements, the following salts have analogous formulæ, and the adjoined atomic heats have been determined:—

Chromate of lead . . .	$PbCrO_4$	29.0
Sulphate of lead . . .	$PbSO_4$	25.8
Permanganate of potass . . .	$KMnO_4$	28.3
Perchlorate of potass . . .	$KClO_4$	26.3

The atomic heats of carbonates,  $RCO_3$ , of silicates,  $RSiO_3$ , of metaphosphates,  $RP_3O_7$ , of nitrates,  $RNO_3$ , are also very near. But not even a common chemical behaviour, as the bodies in this group possess—that is, a common haloid character—is necessary in order that compounds of analogous atomic composition shall show the same atomic heat. Magnetic oxide of iron and chromate of potass both have the same atomic structure, and have approximately the same atomic heat. A similar agreement is found to exist between arseniate of potass,  $KAsO_3$ , chlorate of potass and sesquioxide of iron,  $Fe_2O_3$ , and arsenious acid,  $As_2O_3$ . But comparability of chemical compounds, as regards the atomic heat, is not limited to the cases in which, as far as can be judged, the individual atoms have analogous construction. We do not regard the atom of binoxide of tin or of titanate of lime as analogous in construction to the atom of tungstate of lime or of chromate of lead; nor to nitrate of baryta, or metaphosphate of lime. But, if the formulæ of these binoxides are doubled or tripled, they may be compared with those salts, and their atomic heats are then approximately equal, as is the case for compounds of analogous chemical character. The atomic heats are, for—

Binoxide of tin . . .	$2SnO_2 = Sn_2O_4$	27.6
Titanic acid . . .	$2TiO_2 = Ti_2O_4$	27.3
Tungstate of lime . . .	$CaWO_4$	27.9
Chromate of lead . . .	$PbCrO_4$	29.0
Permanganate of potass . . .	$KMnO_4$	28.3
Perchlorate of potass . . .	$KClO_4$	26.3
Binoxide of tin . . .	$3SnO_2 = Sn_3O_6$	41.4
Titanic acid . . .	$3TiO_2 = Ti_3O_6$	41.0
Nitrate of baryta . . .	$Ba(NO_3)_2$	38.9
Metaphosphate of lime . . .	$CaP_2O_6$	39.4

These results seem to give to Neumann's law a validity far beyond the limits to which it had hitherto been considered to apply. But, on the other hand, the author's comparisons go to show that neither Neumann's nor Dulong and Petit's law is universally valid.

Neumann's law is only approximate, as is well known. For such analogous compounds, as from what we know at present, are quite comparable, and, in accordance with this law, ought to have equal atomic heats; Regnault found the atomic heats differing from each other by  $\frac{1}{10}$  to  $\frac{1}{5}$ . In a few such cases there are even greater differences in the atomic heats, for which an adequate explanation is still wanting. He found that the compounds of those elements which, in the free state, have themselves a smaller atomic heat than most

other elements, are characterized by a smaller atomic heat. This is the case, for instance, with the compounds of boron; the atomic heat of boracic acid is much less than that of the metallic oxides,  $R_2O_3$  and  $R_2O_2$ : the atomic heat of the borates,  $RB_2O_6$ , is much less than that of the oxides,  $R_2O_2 = (2RO)$ , and the atomic heat of borate of lead,  $PbB_2O_6$ , is far less than that of magnetic oxide of iron,  $Fe_3O_4$ . The same is the case with compounds of carbon. This leads the author to discuss whether it is to be assumed that the elements enter into compounds with the atomic heats which they have in the free state. This assumption is only admissible provided it can be proved that the atomic heat of a compound depends simply on its empirical formula, and not on the chemical character or rational constitution. Much of what has previously been said favours this view of the case. It is also supported by the fact, which the author proves, that similar chemical character in analogous compounds, and even isomorphism, do not presuppose equality in the atomic heats, if in one compound an atomic group (a compound radicle) stands in the place of an elementary atom of another; for instance, the atomic heat of cyanogen compounds is considerably greater than those of the corresponding chlorine compounds, and those of ammonium materially greater than those of the corresponding potassium compounds. A further support for that assumption is found in the fact that, regardless of the chemical character, the atomic heat of complex compounds is found to be the sum of the atomic heats of simpler atomic groups, the addition of which gives the formulæ of those more complex compounds. Finally, the author shows, as supporting that assumption, that (as was already maintained) water is contained in solid compounds with the atomic heat of ice. It has been held by some that the atomic heat of an element may differ in a compound from what it is in the free state, and may be different in different compounds; but the author is not disposed to agree to this view. As the result of all these comparisons and observations, he arrives at the conclusion that each element, in the solid state and at an adequate distance from its melting-point, has one specific or atomic heat, which may indeed vary with physical conditions, but not so much as to necessitate its being taken into account in considering the relation in which the specific or the atomic heat stands to the atomic weight or composition. For each element it is to be assumed that it has essentially the same specific or atomic heat in the free state and in compounds. He then passes on to determine what atomic heats are to be assigned to the individual elements; but we can only give the results, which are not all attained with equal certainty. The author adopts the atomic heat 1.8 for C, 2.3 for H, 2.7 for B, 3.7 for Si, 4 for O, 5 for F, 5.4 for P and S, 6.4 for the other elements for which or for whose compounds the atomic heat is known in a somewhat more trustworthy manner, it being left undecided in the case of the latter elements, whether (in accordance with Dulong and Petit's law) they have the same atomic heats, or whether the differences in the atomic heats cannot at present be shown with certainty. The author gives for all compounds, whose specific heat has been investigated in a trustworthy manner, a comparison of the specific heats found experimentally with those calculated on the above assumption. The atomic heat of a compound is obtained by adding the atomic heats of the elements in it, and the specific heat by dividing this atomic heat by the atomic weight. The author remarks that a closer agreement between calculation and observation cannot be hoped than that between the observed atomic heats of such compounds, for which, from all we know at present, the same atomic heat is to be expected in conformity with Neumann's law, to which, in such cases, of course, calculation corresponds. In only a few cases are differences between calculation and observation met with which exceed these limits, or exceed the deviation between the results of different observers for the same substance. Calculation of the specific heat gives a rough control for the experimental determinations, and it sometimes indicates sources of error in the experiments which, without it, would not have been noticed. The author gives an instance of this in the determination of the specific heat of sesquichloride of carbon  $C_2Cl_6$ . In the sixth part the author enters into considerations on the nature of the chemical elements. According to Dulong and Petit's law, compounds of analogous atomic composition have approximately equal atomic heats; and, if this law were universally valid, it might be concluded with great certainty that the so-called elements, if they are really

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compounds of unknown simpler substances, are compounds of the same order. If we start from the elements at present assumed in chemistry, we must admit rather that the magnitude of the atomic heat of a body does not depend on the number of elementary atoms contained in a molecule, or in the complication of its composition, but on the atomic heat of the elementary atoms which enter into its composition. It is possible that a decomposable body may have the same atomic heat as an element. Chlorine might certainly be the peroxide of an unknown element which had the atomic heat of hydrogen; the atomic heat of peroxide of hydrogen,  $H_2O$ , in the solid state or in solid compounds, must be  $= 2.3 + 4 = 6.3$ , agreeing very nearly with the atomic heats of iodine, chlorine, and the elements which follow Dulong and Petit's law. In a very great number of compounds the atomic heat gives more or less accurately a measure for the complication of the composition. And this is also the case with those compounds which, from their chemical deportment, are comparable to the undecomposed bodies. If ammonium or cyanogen had not been decomposed, or could not be by the chemical means at present available, the greater atomic heats of the compounds of these bodies, as compared with analogous potassium or chlorine compounds, and the greater atomic heats of ammonium and cyanogen obtained by indirect determination, as compared with those of potassium and chlorine, would indicate the compound nature of those so-called compound radicles. The conclusion appears legitimate that for the so-called elements the directly or indirectly determined atomic heats are a measure for the complication of their composition. Carbon and hydrogen, for example, if not themselves actually simple bodies, are yet simpler compounds of unknown elements than silicon or oxygen; and still more complex are the elements which may be considered as following Dulong and Petit's law. It may appear surprising, and even improbable, that so-called elements which can replace each other in compounds—as, for instance, hydrogen and the metals—or which enter into isomorphous compounds as corresponding elements, like silicon and tin, should possess unequal atomic heats and unequal complication of composition. But this really is not more surprising than that an undecomposable and an obviously compound body, like hydrogen and hyponitric acid, or potassium and ammonium, should, without losing the chemical character of the compound, replace one another, or even be present in isomorphous compounds as corresponding constituents.

The author concludes his memoir with the following words:—"I have here expressed opinions in reference to the nature of the so-called elements, which appear to depend upon allowable conclusions from well-demonstrated principles. It is of the nature of the case that, with these opinions, the certain basis of the actual, and of what can be empirically proved, is left. It must also not be forgotten that these conclusions only give some sort of clue as to which of the present undecomposable bodies are of more complicated, and which of simpler composition, and nothing as to what the simpler substances are which are contained in the more complicated. Consideration of the atomic heats may declare something as to the structure of a compound atom, but can give no information as to the qualitative nature of the simpler substances used in the construction of the compound atoms. But, even if these conclusions are not free from uncertainty and imperfection, they appear to me worthy of attention in a subject which is, for science, still so shrouded in darkness as the nature of the undecomposed bodies."

"On the Orders and Genera of Quadratic Forms, containing more than three Indeterminates." By H. T. Stephen Smith, M.A., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford.

Royal Astronomical Society, May 13. Warren De La Rue, Esq., President, in the chair. Capt. Basevi, Royal Bengal Engineers, Messrs. Albert Escott, H. P. Finlayson, and R. S. Newall were elected Fellows.—THE papers read were as follows:—"On the Satellite of Sirius." By M. Otto von Struve.—For the mean of the observations made with the Poulkova refractor we have—

1863-21	$p = 10''.14$	$P = 80^{\circ}.5$
1864-22	$10''.92$	$74^{\circ}.8$

and, consequently,

The annual change of distance  $+0''.77$   
position  $-5^{\circ}.7$ .

According to Mr. Stafford's computations, the hypothesis that the small star is in no physical

connexion with Sirius, and has for itself no sensible proper motion, demands for the same time

An annual change of distance  $+0''.89$

position  $-5^{\circ}.8$ ;

while the hypothesis that the small star was identical with Bessel's obscure disturbing body would imply a feeble diminution of distance, and also a diminution (but only of  $1^{\circ}.4$ ) in the angle of position for the same interval. On the first glance we are, therefore, led to the conclusion that the hypothesis of accidental juxtaposition of the two stars is by far the more probable; and this conclusion is even strengthened by the comparison of Mr. Bond's observations of 1862. Nevertheless, he does not yet regard this conclusion as sufficiently established.

Mr. Dawes remarked that he had seen the satellite twice only, although he had sought for it several times during the last year. He believed it required the very best atmospheric condition in order to detect it. He was surprised to see in what a strong twilight it was visible.

"On the Probable Error of a Meridional Transit-Observation, by the 'Eye-and-Ear' and Chronographic Methods." By Edward Dunkin, Esq.—This most valuable paper concludes with the following summary:—1. In "eye-and-ear" observations, the probable error of a Greenwich transit observed in 1853 over one wire is  $\pm 0''.078$ , while that of a complete transit over the seven wires is  $\pm 0''.029$ . In chronographic observations, the probable error of a Greenwich transit observed in 1857 over one wire is  $\pm 0''.051$ , and that of a complete transit over the nine wires is  $\pm 0''.017$ . 2. There does not appear to be any certain difference in the probable error of transits of stars between the first and sixth magnitudes. 3. In "eye-and-ear" transits, for stars whose N.P.D. is greater than  $60^{\circ}$ , it would seem that the probable error of a transit increases slightly as the N.P.D. decreases; while in the chronographic transits the corresponding changes are insignificant. 4. In "eye-and-ear" transits, the personal discordances are liable to a considerable variation between the different observers; in chronographic transits, the differences between the observers are comparatively small. The general steadiness of observing by the latter method is very remarkable, and shows the great advantage obtained by its adoption. 5. The probable error of a Greenwich result for Right Ascension in the year 1853, as determined from "eye-and-ear" transits, is  $\pm 0''.048$ ; while the corresponding probable error, resulting from chronographic transits, in the year 1857, is  $\pm 0''.034$ . By arranging the separate results into groups, according to the stars' magnitude, it is found that no certain difference can be distinguished in the accuracy of the observed transits, excepting only that there is a tendency in both methods towards an increase in the probable error when transits of stars of the first magnitude are observed. The amount of increase in this instance, however, is in reality small, and is probably to some extent accidental.

Mr. De La Rue remarked that it was impossible to listen to papers such as the foregoing one without congratulating ourselves upon the exactness of modern observations, and upon the industry of our lovers of science, both amateur and professional. Looking to the result of the calculations contained in Mr. Dunkin's paper, one was almost overcome by the amount of persevering industry which must have been required for bringing observations to such a point of excellence. He then referred to an improvement upon a proposal, made some time ago by Professor Wheatstone, for increasing the accuracy of transit observations. Most of the members present would be aware that there was a personal equation existing even in the chronographic system. The finger might move a little too soon or too late upon the tappet, and the tappet might hang fire, and a number of other circumstances might occur. This, Professor Wheatstone proposed, should be remedied by a system of wires in the transit instrument, which, when the star was brought between them, should follow its movement; and when the star passed the optical axis of the instrument, or any number of known points from that axis, then the chronographic contact would be made by the wires making contact, so that a number of records would be obtained independent of the will of the observer, and only dependent upon the irregularity of the movement in following the star—a method very similar to that employed by the speaker in his first lunar-photographic experiments.

Colonel Strange, in a recent visit to Paris, had consulted the astronomers at the Imperial Observatory as to the value of the chronographic method, and had received a report very decisive

against it, a very strong opinion having been expressed that it did not exceed the old method in accuracy, even if it came up to it. M. Le Verrier's remark in addition being "*Cela fait de mauvais astronomes.*" He was, however, still of the opinion that the Greenwich method was the more sound of the two. He had, therefore, with the sanction of the Government, ordered a complete chronographic apparatus for the use of the Indian Survey. He believed that M. Le Verrier's condemnation of this process must have been based upon a comparatively small number of observations; whereas, where we have to deal with the fractional part of an arc, a few observations were of very little value. The French astronomers performed their experiments no doubt with their usual skill, but they had not the advantage of data which rendered possible calculations such as the Society had just had laid before them. With reference to what had fallen from the President, Colonel Strange remarked that he believed the method proposed by him of having a telescope so constructed that the star should automatically be followed over the wires had been already achieved: he had examined, while in Paris, an apparatus of this description contrived by M. Peltier in action at the Paris Observatory; the wire was carried so steadily across the field—so exactly with the same velocity as the passage of the star—that the intersection of that star with the wire was a matter of the most perfect ease and certainty—in fact, there was ample time for the observer to call an assistant to verify the observation before leaving the instrument. This system, together with the chronographic method, could not fail to reduce to within even smaller limits those already excessively minute errors with which Mr. Dunkin had so ably dealt in his paper.

Mr. Dunkin, in reply to Colonel Strange's allusion to the objection urged by some astronomers to the chronographic system, that it tended to produce bad eye-and-ear observers, remarked that, so far from that being the case, it was found in practice that the old observers at the Royal Observatory, who had not practised eye-and-ear observations for ten years, when the clock was out of order, and they had recourse to the old method, made their observations just as accurately as they did ten years ago.

Mr. Pritchard said that perhaps few people had an idea how very small the present errors in observations really were. The whole extent of them was simply this: the third of a second of an arc might be represented by putting a human hair at the distance of 125 feet.

"Results of some recent Observations of the Solar Surface, with Remarks." By the Rev. W. R. Dawes.—One of the objects the author had principally in view was, to ascertain whether in any part of the photosphere any objects could be found which could reasonably be compared to willow-leaves in their form. He writes, "It may be well to state here that I have always found it difficult to devise any appropriate appellation for the small bright irregularities of the surface which would avoid an assumption of their character, or ascribe to them a regularity of form they do not possess. In my first paper I expressed my strong objection to any name of this kind, as calculated to convey an erroneous impression. The term *willow-leaves* seemed utterly inapplicable to anything I had ever succeeded in discovering. A far less objectionable term, as it appears to me, is that of *rice-grains*, applied by Mr. Stone to those objects with which all careful sun-observers must be acquainted, as there is no difficulty in seeing them in a moderately favourable state of the air, and which have been familiar to myself for many years; so much so, indeed, that, when they were not discernible, I invariably abstained from any further scrutiny of the solar surface, as being useless. Yet even this appellation conveys the idea of uniformity of shape and size which these objects do not possess, and is, I think, on that account objectionable. But I have been led by it to apply the term *granulations*, or *granules*, which assumes nothing either as to exact form or precise character; and I venture to hope that the term will be generally adopted." The author then gives the results of his recent observations. In these researches he met with nothing which had the slightest resemblance to the *interlacing* which Mr. Nasmyth has so clearly described and so distinctly depicted in his communication to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. "Mr. Nasmyth having subsequently favoured me with a copy, I was so struck with the clearness and decision of his assertions that I began to think I must have overlooked the peculiar appearances of the objects which he has depicted in his diagram as being 'the exact form of these remark-

# THE READER.

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able structural details,' which he describes as 'forming the entire luminous surface of the sun;' and, therefore, to leave nothing untried, I collected all the information I could as to the means employed by him, and by other observers who had seen something of the same kind, in the hope that some change in my apparatus or mode of using it might at length render me successful. Now, however, it appears that Mr. Nasmyth has withdrawn his former statements as to the exact and uniform figure of the objects he claimed to have discovered on the entire surface; and that, in fact, all that might have been regarded as a discovery resolves itself into an appearance perfectly well known many years before." A second object of investigation was to determine whether the granulations existed equally in the brightest and in the less luminous portions of the surface, which together form the general and comparatively coarse mottling of the photosphere.

"On the Appearances of the Sun's Disk." By C. G. Talmage, Esq.—Mr. Talmage has not seen the slightest trace of "willow-leaves," "rice-grains," or "thatch."

Mr. De La Rue, referring to the full discussion which this subject had received at previous meetings, remarked that it is to the sun himself, and to other observers, that the confirmation or non-confirmation of Mr. Nasmyth's discovery must be left. Mr. De La Rue maintains, notwithstanding what had fallen from Mr. Dawes, that it is a substantial discovery. Mr. De La Rue had recently fitted up one of Sir John Herschel's eye-pieces, with a view of continuing these observations upon the sun, and he has also designed a prism for his Newtonian Reflector, with the same view, in order to collect more facts on this subject.

Mr. Dawes said he thought one of the most remarkable things connected with the matter was that, whereas these granules, or "rice-grains," were easily seen—a small telescope, with a power of 40 or 50, bringing them into view—Mr. Nasmyth should have accepted them as his "willow-leaves," which, he says, are so difficult to see with an 8-inch aperture.

Mr. De La Rue said that, with regard to one person having observed them with a comparatively small power, he might state he could recollect the time perfectly when he could see lines and spaces of 200 to the inch; he could not do so now without a magnifier, and he thought this apparent contradiction might be accounted for in the same manner.

Mr. Stone said the appearances presented to him were what he had described—viz., luminous particles scattered over the sun's disk, which, by way of description, he had called "rice-grains." He was not prepared to say that Mr. Dawes's "granules" were not the same things; all he could say was, that he was not aware of his having published any account of them. He felt very great confidence in the existence of what he had described, and he had examined them with magnifying powers up to 400, and had not found the slightest change in their appearance. He was not prepared to say that it might not be a very peculiar appearance of the luminous clouds, such as Mr. Dawes suggested; but he considered that, even supposing it to be so, it was well worth the attention of the astronomer.

Mr. Howlett corroborated a remark made by Mr. Dawes as to the general presence of a bright annular appearance just outside the penumbra of a spot. He next alluded to the eye-piece recommended by Sir John Herschel for observations of the sun by means of screen projections in a darkened chamber; the construction of which, it was remarked by Mr. Pritchard, is not at all difficult.

"Occultations of Stars by the Moon, and an Eclipse of Jupiter's Third Satellite, observed at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the Month of March, 1864."

"Occultations of Stars by the Moon," observed by Captain W. Noble, at Forest Lodge, Maresfield. "On Planet (76) Freia," by N. Pogson, Esq.—Observations of an asteroid, originally observed for *Concordia*, extracted from a letter to the Astronomer-Royal. It would appear that these are really observations of the planet (76) Freia.

"Notes on a Centauri and other Southern Binaries, and on the Nebula about  $\eta$  Argus," by E. B. Powell, Esq.—A brief notice of the motion, during the last two years, of a Centauri. The last mean measures of a Centauri were as follows:—

Epoch.	Position-Angle.	Distance.
1862-205	358° 0	6" 79

Mr. Powell has since secured the means given below:—

Epoch.	Position-Angle.	Distance.
1863-028	1° 4	7" 2
1864-110	5 7	7 85

The author invites attention to the important portion of the orbit now about to be described—viz., the part in the immediate neighbourhood of the lesser maximum of distance. If this maximum be accurately determined, one most prominent feature in the path will be fixed; and then, as the companion will revolve with continually increasing rapidity till its distance from the primary diminishes to 1" or less, a really excellent orbit will be calculable in 1870, or thereabouts. He remarks that the orbit contained in the notes to the observations of 1859-62, though agreeing tolerably with observation up to this time, assigns too small a magnitude to the lesser maximum distance. The following are his latest measures of two other Southern binaries:—

Star.	Epoch.	Position.	Distance.
$\rho$ Eridani	1863-017	250° 9	4" 88
$\gamma$ Corona Aust.	1863-836	318 1	1 1/4 est.

The latter star is moving rapidly, though not so rapidly as was anticipated; it has described about 20° in the last four years. In the note  $\eta$  Argus, in the paper already alluded to, the author called attention to two points connected with the nebula about that star: (1) That the whole nebula had faded away very considerably in 1860; and (2) that it had altered its form, the nebulous matter having receded so as to leave open the southern end of the lemniscate vacuity. These remarks were based upon numerous observations taken in 1859, 60, 61, and 62, and particulars are now given.

Geological Society, May 25. W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair.—The Rev. J. Chadwick Bates, F.R.A.S., Messrs. W. Brooke, W. H. Nevill, and J. Pentecost, F.C.S., were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read:—1. "On the Geology of Part of the North-Western Himalayas." By Capt. Godwin-Austen. With Notes on the Fossils; by Messrs. T. Davidson, F.R.S., R. Etheridge, and S. P. Woodward. Communicated by Mr. R. A. C. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S.—The geological formations occurring in these regions were stated to be (1) a fluvio-lacustrine series, (2) a Siwalik series, (3) Nummulitic Limestone, (4) Jurassic rocks, and (5) a Palaeozoic series. In reference to the fluvio-lacustrine strata, the author gave a *résumé* of the conclusions respecting their physical features and mode of formation at which he had arrived in a former paper, and in addition gave some details respecting their position and stratigraphical characters, especially describing the mode of occurrence in them of some land and freshwater shells, which were referred to in a Note by Mr. S. P. Woodward. The lakes in which the lacustrine deposits were formed were supposed by Capt. Godwin-Austen to have been produced in consequence of the mouths of valleys, into which rivers run, becoming blocked up by means of glaciers and otherwise, as now often happens in the same region. Stratigraphical details of the other series of rocks were then given, the Jurassic formation being supposed to belong to the Middle division of the Oolites, and the Palaeozoic limestone being described as Carboniferous Limestone—both of which determinations were confirmed by Messrs. Etheridge and Davidson in Notes on the Fossils. The age of the clay-slate and mica-slate was stated to be very doubtful; and the author concluded by describing the localities in which granitic rocks occur, but chiefly as forming the axis of the North-western Himalayas. In Notes appended to the paper, Mr. Davidson described species of Brachiopoda from three deposits, one of Carboniferous age, one of Jurassic, and one of unknown date; Mr. Etheridge described the remaining fossils from the Jurassic strata; and Mr. Woodward noticed the shells from the fluvio-lacustrine series. While the latter were stated to be nearly all recent British species, Mr. Etheridge remarked on the great affinity of the Jurassic fossils to those of the same age (Middle Oolite) in England, and Mr. Davidson observed that the fossiliferous limestone of the Carboniferous series bore a great resemblance, lithologically and in its fossils, to deposits of a similar age in Great Britain.

2. "On the Cetacean Fossils termed *Ziphius* by Cuvier, with a notice of a new species (*Belemnoziphius compressus*) from the Red Crag." By Prof. T. H. Huxley, F.R.S.—The genus *Ziphius*, as originally constituted by Cuvier, contained three species described by him—namely, *Z. cavirostris*, *Z. planirostris*, and *Z. longirostris*; but it is probable that each of these really belongs to a distinct genus—the first to *Ziphius*, the second to *Choneziphius*, and the last to the author's genus *Belemnoziphius*. More recently M. Gervais has established a new species—*Ziphius Becanii*—from a specimen formerly considered to belong to *Z.*

*longirostris*; and this species, with that described in this paper, and Professor Owen's MS. species, were also considered referable to *Belemnoziphius*. Besides the foregoing conclusions respecting the affinities of the fossil *Rhynchoceti*, Professor Huxley discussed the relations of the recent genera and species belonging to the same group, including the cetacean of Aresquiers, which was considered by Gervais to belong to the genus *Ziphius*. He exhibited these relations in a tabular form, and concluded by stating that he had arrived at the following results:—

1. Unless the cetacean of Aresquiers be identical with *Ziphius cavirostris*, all the *Ziphi* of Cuvier belong to *Cetacea* generally distinct from those now living.

2. If the cetacean of Aresquiers be identical with *Ziphius cavirostris*, it is not certain that the latter is truly fossil; nor, if it be so, have we any knowledge of its stratigraphical position.

3. Of the certainly fossil *Ziphi*, the stratigraphical position of *Belemnoziphius longirostris* is unknown; but all the other species of that genus, and *Choneziphius planirostris*, are derived from the English or Antwerp Crag, and are not known to occur out of it.

4. So that at present we are justified in regarding *Belemnoziphius* and *Choneziphius* as true Crag Mammals.

Zoological Society, May 24. Professor Huxley in the chair.—Mr. W. H. Flower read a communication on a lesser fin whale (*Balaenoptera rostrata*) stranded on the coast of Norfolk, and lately presented to the Museum of the College of Surgeons by Mr. J. H. Gurney.

Dr. J. E. Gray read a paper on the cetaceous animals observed in the seas surrounding the British Islands, in which he enumerated twenty-eight species as having occurred on the coasts of this country. Dr. J. E. Gray also read a note on *Urocyclus*, a new genus of terrestrial gastropodous mollusca discovered on the Zambesi river by Dr. J. Kirk.

Dr. P. L. Selater pointed out the character of a new species of falcon obtained by the late Dr. Dickinson, of the Central African Mission, on the River Shire, and proposed to be called *Falco Dickinsonii*, in commemoration of its discoverer. Dr. P. L. Selater also read a note on the species of American cuckoo of the genus *Neomorphus*.

Mr. Leadbeater exhibited some remarkable tusks of an elephant from the East Indies, from the collection of Sir Victor Brooke, Bart., F.Z.S.

A communication was read from Mr. Otto Semper on a new species of mollusc of the genus *Rigistoma* belonging to the family *Cyclostomatida*, and on a new species of *Vitrina* from the Philippine Islands.

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

### MONDAY, JUNE 13th.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS, at 8.—9, Conduit Street.  
LONDON AND SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL, at 8.—22, Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square.  
GEOGRAPHICAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House. 1. Letters from Dr. Livingstone to Sir Roderick I. Murchison and the late Admiral Washington. 2. Extract of a Letter from Dr. Baikie from Luakia on the Niger. 3. Travels of Portuguese in Inner Africa, between Mozambique and Benguela. Mr. W. D. Cooley.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 14th.

HORTICULTURAL, at 3.—South Kensington. Election of Fellows. Lecture on "Pelargoniums." Mr. W. Saunders.  
SYRO-EGYPTIAN, at 7.30.—32, Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square. "On the Site of the Temple at Jerusalem." Mr. Thomas Lewin, M.A., F.S.A., &c.  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL, at 8.—4, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. 1. "On Basque Skulls, and on Skulls of the Bronze Age." Dr. Paul Broca. 2. "On the Negro: his Relations to Civilized Society." Mr. S. E. Bouverie Pusey. 3. "On Human Remains from Portland." Mr. Geo. E. Roberts, F.G.S.  
MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL, at 8.30.—53, Berners Street, Oxford Street.  
ZOOLOGICAL, at 9.—11, Hanover Square. "On the Skeleton of the Great Auk." Prof. Owen. "On the Psittacids of the Indian Archipelago." Mr. Wallace. "Remarks on the Cæcal Grand Rectum and other Parts of the Giraffe." Dr. E. Crisp.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15th.

METEOROLOGICAL, at 7.—25, Great George Street, Westminster. Anniversary.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 16th.

NUMISMATIC, at 7.—13, Gate Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Anniversary.  
CHEMICAL, at 8.—Burlington House. "On the Identity of Methyl and Hydride of Ethyl." Dr. Schorlemmer. "On Vacuum Experiments." Dr. Sprengel.  
LINNEAN, at 8.—Burlington House. 1. "On the Sexual Relations of the three Forms of *Lythrum Salicaria*." Mr. Charles Darwin, F.R.S. and L.S. 2. "Account of a very perfect Skeleton of *Dinornis Giganteus*, recently received." Mr. Thomas Allis, F.L.S. 3. "On the Oesophagus of the Ruminantia." Mr. William Rutherford, M.D.  
ANTIQUARIES, at 8.—Somerset House.  
ROYAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 17th.

PHILOLOGICAL, at 8.—Somerset House. 1. "On the Family of Reduplicated Words." Mr. H. B. Wheatley. 2. "Some Old English Words wholly or almost left out of use." Rev. W. Barnes, B.D.

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## ART.

## EXHIBITION OF FRENCH AND FLEMISH PICTURES.

THIS Exhibition is the eleventh of a series which we hope will be without end. It is a great thing that we should have in London every spring a small and well-assorted collection of modern Continental pictures—profitable to the public, on the one hand, in affording materials for a fair comparison from year to year of the relative condition of British and Foreign Art, and useful to English artists, on the other hand, in familiarizing them, at little trouble and cost, with the works of their foreign competitors, keeping them alive to their own deficiencies, and stimulating their efforts to take up a better position in the race in which, with a few brilliant exceptions, they have hitherto been distanced.

On glancing round the room we feel at once that we are in the midst of a small and choice collection, and that there are few pictures we shall care to miss. The prevalence of violent colour, which characterizes an English exhibition, does not already fatigue the eye before we begin to look at the pictures in detail. The general uniformity of the pattern adapted for framing has also something to do with the quiet character of the display. The only drawback to the pleasure which a stranger enjoys from the trouble he has to discover a picture by any particular master that he wishes to see. The Catalogue is arranged on the foreign plan of printing the master's name over the list of his contributions—an excellent arrangement when his works are also hung in contiguity; but, when, as in the present Exhibition, the numbers which are given consecutively in the Catalogue are attached to pictures in various parts of the room, it is next to impossible for a stranger to find the picture he is in search of. We strongly recommend Mr. Gambart to see to this, and next year to arrange his Catalogue with reference to the pictures in the Exhibition.

The two pictures by Gallait will not add to the reputation he acquired in England by the exhibition of the celebrated "Lying-in-State of Counts Egmont and Horn." The same period of his country's history has been illustrated rather melodramatically in "The Oath of Vargas" and "The Sentence of Death read to the Counts Egmont and Horn on the Eve of their Execution." In the former picture Vargas is represented taking the oath of secrecy in the presence of Alva and the members of the hideous Tribunal of Blood; but we feel instinctively that this horrible business was not performed in this minor-theatre fashion, the principal actor being got up in a blood-coloured robe, and scowling over his oath in the midst of raving and cursing monks. These people are all tenth-rate actors, and even the figure of the Duke of Alva bears little or no resemblance to his well-authenticated portraits. The other picture is open to the same objection in a less degree. The characters are more ably discriminated, and the action is more subdued and natural; but still it is a stage rendering of history; and from the stage, rather than from the sober, though infinitely more pathetic facts of history, the painter has preferred to derive his inspiration. Of the dramatic element in history, Delaroche, among modern painters, was the real exponent. Gallait's pictures are able, melodramatic, and picturesque; but they have not the qualities which entitle him to assume the place that has been claimed for him in the still vacant chair of the great French painter.

We turn with pleasure from these clever misrepresentations of history to the pictures of the Baron de Leys, which, notwithstanding a certain quaintness which trenches closely upon exaggeration, are never unfaithful to the past or false in sentiment and taste. The portraits of Philip le Bel and the Duke of Brabant are slavish imitations of older masters, and whatever value they possess as portraits must have been derived from originals which rendered their production unnecessary; but a scene of the domestic life of the sixteenth century, which places before us "The Burghers and Wives of Antwerp on their way to Church on New Year's Day," is reproduced with extraordinary power and vividness. A picture like this can only be painted by an artist who is intimately acquainted with the manners and costume of the period, and whose sympathies are with the past rather than with the present. M. Tissot is another painter working under similar influence, as may be seen in his fine picture of "The Departure of the Betrothed Soldier." In a finely-composed landscape, we meet a young

sixteenth-century soldier walking with his betrothed a little in advance of her parents and other members of the family, who have come thus far on the road to bid him God-speed: the moment of separation is now at hand, and the lover's arm clasps his sweetheart, whose head leans on his breast. This incident, common to all times has received in this picture a treatment that vividly recalls to us the past: even the face of the landscape bears the marks of mediæval culture, and we detect nothing approaching to an anachronism in the whole composition.

A fine picture by Israels, "The Widow's Removal," by its general tone of colour recalls to our memory "The Drowned Sailor," exhibited in the International Exhibition of 1862. The present picture depicts an equally pathetic episode of seaman-life, and is quite as remarkable as that was for the treatment by which the unity of the thought is expressed. A study of a head, "A Young Woman of Landvoit," is another contribution by the same artist, admirably painted and full of character. Madame Jerichau's large picture of a shipwrecked mother and child is a theatrical version of an old story. The mother, in a fainting sort of attitude, is, with her child, in the hut of a Danish peasant, whose daughter is tending her. More fortunate than most ladies in similar circumstances, she has saved her baggage, though half drowned herself, and she has the gratification of seeing it all arrive on the peasant's shoulder, apparently uninjured by the sea-water. The picture is very cleverly painted, and bears evidence of great experience on the part of Madame Jerichau. A portrait, by the same artist, of the Prince of Wales's Baby has lately been added to the collection; it will be looked at with great interest, and is deserving of sincere commendation. It is said to be a faithful likeness; it is certainly an admirably modelled and painted head of a child, though injured by a tasteless arrangement of blue drapery.

Gérome contributes two pictures—"The Barge" and "Bashi-Bazouks." The first represents a barge on the Nile, in which a prisoner is bound hand and foot, and stretched at full length on his back athwart the boat, which is being propelled by the vigorous strokes of two black rowers. This is a fine work; not only for the quality of the painting, but for the largeness of the style. The bodies of the oarsmen are magnificently drawn; the muscular action which gives life to the oars is indicated with certain knowledge, and the action is in fine contrast with the death-like stillness of the prisoner, whose eyes are fixed upon the sky. Gérome is a pupil of Paul Delaroche; and, in all that he does, we see the result of his superior training and great acquired knowledge.

Edouard Frère has only one picture; but it is an important work in size for him. At first sight it is not attractive, being unusually devoid of colour, and also painted in a very low key; but, when we begin to examine it, we are more than ever struck by the truthfulness and simplicity of the artist's nature. The subject is the interior of a labourer's cottage, the inmates of which are gathered round their frugal meal and in the act of "Saying Grace." Whether we look at the action of the figures as a whole, or upon each countenance separately, we shall feel how unconscious the actors are and how modest. Frère lifts for a moment the thin veil that divides us from the poor, and makes us feel that it is perhaps our fault after all that it is not rent for ever.

Adolphe Schreyer is a painter of great power whose pictures of Arab-life have attained great celebrity. He contributes five works, large and small, to the collection. The most important of these is, surely, a personal recollection of "Sledge-Travelling in Russia." We see a sledge in which is seated a single traveller. A Cossack driver urges three frantic, terrified horses over and through the snow; the road is hardly distinguishable but for the thicket which bounds it; a wolf has been tumbled over in the foreground, either by the iron heels of the mad grey horse, or by the gun of the traveller—probably by the former, as the man, unwilling to waste a shot, with teeth set and eyes fixed upon the pack which we see not yet, but that we know will be here in a moment, still grasps his rifle at the "ready." The spirit and dash of this picture almost take away our breath; we feel that in another moment sledge and travellers will have given place to the wolves, the foremost of which is rolled over on to his back before our eyes. The expression on the men's faces—the driver alive to the danger, and knowing that all depends upon his control over the terrified horses, the traveller turning upon the pack like an animal at bay—is wonderfully intense. Not less truly rendered is the expression of fear

shown in the movement of the horses: one almost dreads the snapping of the cords by which they are bound to the sledge, knowing that all now depends on its holding well together. The picture is painted in a large, masterly style, and is altogether one of the best examples of the master. Though of less thrilling interest, Mr. Schreyer's other pictures are among the best works in the room, especially the two smaller ones—"An Outlying Picket in Algeria" and "Vallaques travelling through a Storm."

The school of Meissonnier is represented by his pupil Ruiperez, who contributes two small pictures in the style of his master. They are extremely good, though the subjects are utterly uninteresting: a fault that may fairly be brought against many of the pictures of Meissonnier himself. His fine treatment and style redeem them from insipidity, and raise them above criticism; but we should be sorry to find him with a large following; we have already too many "Card-Players," "Connoisseurs," "Amateurs," &c., &c., of the time of Louis Quinze.

Plassan, like Meissonnier, is well known and greatly admired in England; and there certainly is a wonderful charm about all that he does, even though it be owing in a great measure to his perfect mastery of execution. He has four pictures in the room, the most important of which is a scene from "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme." There is nothing in the Exhibition that surpasses this in its way: it is a Frenchman's reading of a page from Molière; and we must confess that no English artist—not even Leslie himself, who was so fond of illustrating this comedy—has ever succeeded in so thoroughly entering into the spirit and meaning of the author.

Duverger and Thom are pupils of Frère; but the former has broken new ground, while the latter has hardly ventured far afield. "Hide and Seek" is a very favourable example of Duverger's talent for composition, as well as of the good taste with which domestic subjects are treated by the best French artists.

There are many other works of interest in this delightful little collection which we have not space even to enumerate. Ivon has a painful, though clever picture of "Bullock-Carts conveying wounded Soldiers from Solferino." Tidemand has a picture called "The Convalescent," inferior in every respect to "The Norwegian Duel," in the Academy. Bisschop has a very clever study, called "All Alone." The Bonheur family are very inadequately represented by a small picture of a Goat and Kids, by Juliette—a sister, we presume, of the celebrated Mademoiselle Rosa. Lauee contributes but one picture—"The Dame School," full of merit. Scholten has a pathetic little subject, called "The Loss of an Old Friend." Alfred Stevens, Madou, Trayer, and others, are more or less well represented.

The Exhibition contains a few portraits; but they are singularly inferior, and bear a marked contrast to the general excellence of the collection.

We have no room to speak of the landscapes at present; but there are some very good examples on the walls to which we hope more particularly to refer at some future time. Achenbach, Lambinet, Bossuet, Theodore Frère, Gall, Isabey, Lamorinière, Vervier, and other artists who are less known in England, are contributors. We have to regret, however, the absence of the greatest name among foreign landscape-painters. There is no work contributed by Troyon.

## ART NOTES.

THE Arundel Society has published a very satisfactory report for 1863. The annual publications for 1864 are now in the course of delivery, and consist of two chromolithographs by Messrs. Starch and Kramer—the "Presentation in the Temple," from the fresco by Luini at Saronno, and a full-sized head from the same, together with two line-engravings. One by Professor Gruner, after Raffaele, and the other by M. Stœlzel, after the fresco of "St. John" by Fra Angelico in the chapel of Nicholas V. in the Vatican. The members of the Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting, to be held at the rooms of the Society on Friday, the 17th instant, at half-past two o'clock; and a notice has been issued that it is intended to propose the following new rule:—"That all public institutions, whether in England or abroad, shall be admissible as subscribers immediately on paying an entrance donation to the copying fund, without passing through the class of associates."

LESSING has finished his painting, "Disputation between Luther and Eck," a subject lately chosen also by Hübner for a picture.

# THE READER.

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WE have to include the name of Sir John Watson Gordon, R.A., President of the Scottish Academy, in our list of recent deaths. He was in his seventy-fourth year. Sir John was related to Robertson the historian, to Falconer the poet, and Sir Walter Scott. As a portrait-painter he took a high rank, and in the present Exhibition of the Royal Academy are five portraits painted by him.

AFTER a vigorous debate, Parliament has rejected the proposition of removing the National Gallery from its present site to Burlington House by a majority of 52.

MR. KENNY MEADOWS has received a pension of £80 on the Civil List.

AN interesting letter from Mr. Nugent Banks appeared in the *Times* of Thursday, showing that the sketch by Velasquez of his celebrated picture of "Las Meninas," now on view at the Gallery of the British Institution, is the original and not a replica, as has been suggested, the vermilion cross of the order of St. Jago having been put on the figure of the painter by the hand of Philip IV. himself.

FOUR German artists received prizes at the late Paris Exhibition of the *Salon*—viz., the painters O. Weber and Schreyer, the sculptor Sussmann-Helborn, and the engraver Barthelmes.

IN a convent near Hall a well-preserved painting has been discovered, which turned out to be a Lucas Cranach. It has been added to the Museum at Innsbruck.

## MUSIC.

### "STRADELLA" AT COVENT GARDEN.

WHEN the Count de Flotow made the tale of Stradella the theme of a serio-comic opera he was wasting a fine subject. Pretty and pleasant as is the music to which he has set it, one cannot help wishing that the theme had fallen first into the hands of one of the great composers. What would not Meyerbeer, for instance, have made out of such material? He would have found room for the immense scenes of display in which he so delighted, and a plot fertile in those conjunctures of passionate interest which used to call forth a still greater inspiration. Any great composer who hears Flotow's opera in the future may echo Beethoven's joke on being taken to hear a poor opera, "Really this is a capital play—I must set it to music!" For poor Stradella's story was in reality a very tragical one, if we can believe tradition. The old Venetian noble, who had seduced, say the narrators, the fair young creature with whom the musician fell in love, must have been, according to the same authorities, a very demon of malevolence. For years he pursued the ill-fated pair from city to city. Once the victim was actually stabbed by bravoos, but recovered. Once it was only the melting eloquence of his voice which, according to the pleasant old tale (well found if not true), averted the assassin's dagger. But his enemy did not relent: a fresh detachment of ruffians was procured, who executed their commission satisfactorily. Husband and wife were stabbed in one another's arms. A dismal story this, but with elements of poetry in it which might have been turned to grand account. Herr Flotow, however, and his librettist give only a rose-coloured version of the tale. With them the revengeful patrician enacts the part of the obstinate but relenting parent of the conventional tableau—"Bless you! my children"—which brings down the curtain; and the great scene of the play, that in which the hero charms the would-be assassins into a renunciation of their bloody business, becomes semi-farcical, the two bravoos being of the regular stage-type which we have become familiar with in "Fra Diavolo" and a score of other operas. But, as the composer has chosen to adopt this treatment of the subject, it is only fair to take it as it stands. Flotow is Flotow; and Vienna the volatile likes him. Whoever knows "Martha" knows "Stradella." The last, which was composed the earlier of the two, is decidedly the weaker piece; but the music has the same easy flow, the same tripping melody, which have made "Martha" so popular. Its tunes are sufficiently buoyant, though by no means very fresh. Throughout the piece it needs no divination to discover who has been the composer's model. Auber is followed without disguise. The structure of the piece, the combinations of solo voices and chorus, and of both of these with ballet—all is Auberian. For this Herr Flotow has been visited with much critical contempt—contempt, as it seems to us, quite undeserved. Originality is a very precious thing; but it does not follow that all that is not original is worthless. Auber's

music is so delightful that even "Auber-and-water," as some people call Flotow, has charm enough to entitle it to a hearing. Whether it is, in common phrase, worth while to go to the Opera to hear it is a matter which the relation between tastes and pockets must determine. Of course, if we had an "Opéra Comique" in London, "Stradella" and "Martha" would go there, along with the "Crown Diamonds," "Fra Diavolo," and the rest of M. Auber's delightful creations. But, as we have not this musical luxury, there is no reason why we should not have "Stradella" on the regular Italian boards, even though its small dimensions appear a little out of proportion with the scene. If the music is pretty enough and pleasant enough to be worth sitting through, it does not matter much to the listener whether it was the genius of Auber or the cleverness of Flotow that produced it. The creation of a style is an achievement which we regard as one of the surest tests of genius: that a style should be imitated—that is, that men of inferior power should let their fancies shape themselves in forms struck out by greater minds—is quite a legitimate result. The process is one of the regular modes of development by which art of all sorts grows. It is because ideas are thus fertile—because original genius tends to reproduce itself in the schools which itself creates—that originality is so precious. But to deny merit to all that is not original would be to deny genius to the most original of composers; for it is among these that we find the greatest borrowers, as the history of music abundantly testifies. If Herr Flotow and his operas are to be pooh-poohed, let it be on account of what they contain, not merely because their style is modelled on that of another man. That the music of "Stradella" is trivial, and far below the demands of the subject, we readily admit; but it is music nevertheless, and very pleasant and pretty music too. It affects to be nothing more; and we can enjoy it accordingly.

To analyse either book or music here would be superfluous. Both are too transparently simple to need comment. Nor of its performance at Covent Garden need much be said. Herr Wachtel, who acted the part of the hero with spirit, proved once more, and most conclusively, that he is as yet no singer. Again and again he threw his audience into a transport by the explosion of the high chest C; but this is his sole resource. He keeps correct time, and is generally in tune; but, subject to these two qualifications, his singing is as bad as it is possible for singing to be. It has absolutely not a trace of art about it. Its tone and its phrasing are alike coarse, thick, and monotonous; the notes appear, not to flow, but to be squeezed out of the throat; and an accent broader than the broadest German yet heard upon this stage completes the list of disagreeables. Despite all this, it must be confessed that the occasional outburst of two or three strident and sonorous high notes has a wonderful effect upon the listener. They are uttered with an air of triumphant force which disarms all question. So long as this at present irresistible attraction lasts, multitudes will throng to hear Herr Wachtel, and managers, justifiably enough, will bid against each other for his services; but, if such singing is accepted by English opera-goers as a style of performance proper to the Italian stage, it will be a strange proof of the decline in the taste for pure vocal art which has been going on simultaneously with a rise in the average of musical intelligence. If "Stradella" were otherwise worthless, it should be seen for the sake of Signor Ronconi's acting. He plays and sings in the character of a First Ruffian; and anything more overpoweringly comic than his performance it has not been our lot to see on any stage. He has the audience completely in his power. One little piece of fun—a good-natured burlesque of the *C di petto* of the tenor—threw the house into a spasm of laughter the like of which had probably not been heard within those fashionable walls. Mdlle. Battu was the *Leonora* of the piece—why must an operatic heroine be always *Leonora* or *Elvira*?—playing the part of the musician's wife with due spirit. Signori Ciampi and Capponi filled the characters of the second ruffian and the revengeful noble. The choruses, which are slight but effective, were beautifully sung (the first only excepted); and the production of the piece is, in other respects, what we should expect to see at Covent Garden. It would be an advantage if the management would assume a license often exercised on slighter grounds and in graver cases, and cut down the wearisome length of the ballet. Some rude and rather stupid horseplay in the masque-scene might well be spared. R. B. L.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

How ardently the English public loves music is to be seen at the Saturday Opera Concerts at the Crystal Palace, where four or five thousand well-dressed people throng the great transept every week merely to see the faces of the great singers of the day. Hearing them is, of course, out of the question. The music at these gatherings serves about the same purpose as the display of plants at a flower-show: it is the apology for bringing together a gaily-dressed multitude. But the place of meeting is a delightful one; and, if the public likes to pay for gazing at the lions and lionesses of the opera stage, the directors, we suppose, must be pardoned for taking their money. Mr. Coward's organ-playing, however, is music which every one can hear and every one must enjoy. Far down over the terraces, even in the "rhododendron valley," the tones of his magnificent instrument may be listened to with pleasure.

HERR NIEMANN, who enjoys the reputation of being, perhaps, the foremost of the "robust" tenors of Germany, has just been engaged for life for the Court-Theatre of Hanover at a salary of £750 a year, with the magnificent retiring pension of £100 (800 thalers) in case of his losing his voice. The musical world of Hanover, as represented by its chief artists, seems to have migrated this season to London, Herr Jaell, Herr Joachim, and Dr. Gunz, the tenor who has been engaged to sing *Florestan* in "Fidelio" at Her Majesty's, being all from that city.

AMONG recent arrivals of interest to musical circles we may note that of Madame Tardieu, from Paris, a pianist who is much commended by good judges as a "classical" player of rare merit and of a wide range of accomplishment.

MDLLE. ADRIENNE PESCHEL, the eminent pianist who obtained the first prize at the Conservatoire of Paris, and is well known throughout the principal cities of the Continent by her performances on the pianoforte, has just arrived in town, and intends to appear in public during the season.

GARIBALDI has conveyed his acknowledgements to the musical artists of London for their cordial welcome of him in the following note, addressed to Signor Arditi (the text of which we take from the *Musical World*):—"Gibilterra, 3 Maggio, 1864. MIO CARO ARDITI, — Accettate una parola d'affetto e di gratitudine per tante vostre gentilezze. Vogliate porgere un caro saluto a tutti quegli artisti distinti che si compiacquero d'onorarmi in Londra—e ch'io giammai dimenticherò. Ricordatemi pure all'amabile vostra Signora, e tenetemi per vostro sempre,—G. GARIBALDI."

MOSENTHAL'S "Deborah," translated into "Leah" in English, is to be brought out as an opera in Italian. The libretto is by a Mr. Marcello, and the music by M. Schira. Two acts are finished already. The opera is to be performed at the Italian Opera in Paris.

THE "Ernst" concert given on Monday last gave the frequenters of the Monday Concerts one of the most interesting and pleasant evenings they have ever enjoyed. We hope to be able to notice some points of the performance next week.

THE National Choral Society gave on Wednesday evening a performance of the "Hymn of Praise" and Rossini's "Stabat." Signor Giuglini, who appeared for the first time in Exeter Hall, earned unbounded applause by his magnificent singing of the tenor part in the latter work. The choir, which is now becoming pretty well acquainted with these two works, sang with its usual spirit; but there are passages in both pieces which it is probable no large chorus could ever thoroughly master. Of this kind are the unisonal phrases in the "Eja Mater."

MEYERBEER has left £400 to the Association of Musical Artists in Paris. The paragraph of his will embodying this request is thus quoted in the note in which his widow, Ninna Meyerbeer, has written to the President of the Society:—"Je lègue à l'Association des artistes musiciens, présidée par le baron Taylor, à Paris, dont je suis membre depuis de longues années, la somme de 10,000 francs, argent de France. Cet argent doit être placé comme capital inaliénable, les intérêts seulement doivent en être versés pour les musiciens nécessiteux dans la caisse de secours de la Société."

WHILE Meyerbeer "lay in state" in Paris, his "Robert le Diable" was performed there for the 470th time, and the "Huguenots" for the 398th time. The "Prophet" has had as many as 300 repetitions in Paris.

THE weekly musical periodical started some little time back by the publishing house of Boosey & Co., under the title of the *Musical and Dramatic Review*, has ceased to appear. Its proprietors state in explanation that they "have determined

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upon this step because they see no prospect of their receiving sufficient support from publishers, concert-givers, and other advertisers, to provide for the heavy expense that is entailed by the production of a first-class paper. . . . Although the Review has attained a sale unprecedented in the history of musical journals, a circulation which could not fail to be of great service to a large class of persons as an advertising medium, its advantages in this respect have not been appreciated. Publishers would not advertise in a paper belonging to another publisher, however independent it might be; while concert-givers and managers refused their support except as an exchange for favourable criticisms on their performances. An independent paper was viewed with aversion by all except the public."

M. FIORENTINO, the musical and dramatic critic, has just died in Paris, at the age of fifty-seven. He was a prominent member of the Parisian press, being known as the musical feuilletonist of the *Moniteur*, and as principal editor of the *Entr'acte*. He was also a translator of Dante.

# MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

JUNE 13th to 18th.

MONDAY.—Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.  
Philharmonic Concert, Hanover Square Rooms, 8 p.m.  
Concert for Surrey Ophthalmic Hospital, Beethoven Rooms, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY.—Musical Union Matinée, St. James's Hall, 3½ p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—Children's Choral Festival at Crystal Palace (Five Thousand Voices).

Mr. Lindsay Sloper's First Pianoforte Performance, St. James's Hall, 3½ p.m.

F. H. Cowen's Matinée Musicale, Dudley House.

Musical Society's Concert, St. James's Hall, 8½ p.m.

FRIDAY.—Signor Ardit's Morning Concert, Her Majesty's Theatre.

Signor Campana's Matinée, Dudley House.

Mme. Oswald's Matinée, Colliard's Rooms.

SATURDAY.—Mr. Walter Macfarren's Pianoforte Performance, Hanover Square Rooms.

OPERAS:—

COVENT GARDEN.—To-night, and Tuesday, "Otello;" Monday, "Faust;" Thursday, "Un Ballo in Maschera;" Friday, "Don Giovanni."

HER MAJESTY'S.—To-night, and Wednesday, "Robert le Diable;" Tuesday, "Faust."

# THE DRAMA.

## "LIGHT AND SHADOW" AT THE PRINCESS'S, &c.

THE well-known anecdote of the Hunchback of the Rue Quincampoix, who, when every house in that famous street was gorged from cellar to roof with frenzied dealers in John Law's shares in his great Mississippi scheme, made fifty thousand crowns by letting his round shoulders as a peripatetic writing-desk, has furnished Mr. A. R. Slous the groundwork of an extremely interesting three-act drama, received with decided marks of favour on Monday evening. It is meritorious in Mr. Slous that his piece is original, as regards its construction, and most carefully written; in both respects agreeably contrasting with the majority of the pieces recently brought out at our theatres. In saying that his piece is original, we only mean that it has been constructed by its author without reference to any foreign source. There is, in fact, nothing strikingly new either in the characters of the piece or in the situations into which they are thrown. Several of these situations, however, are very effective in the higher dramatic sense and apart from their stage effectiveness; and the whole action of the piece is worked out with a sustained earnestness that takes solid hold of the attention of the audience from the first scene to the last, even though the *dénouement* of the story is clearly discernible long before the author brings the story to a close. The plot is slight, and set forth with something approaching to severity of form; but it is, at the same time, by no means wanting in incident or variety. The title, "Light and Shadow," does not very happily convey a notion of the drift of the story, except inasmuch as there are scenes in it, some laughter-moving, some pathetic: its applicability must be sought, perhaps, rather in the sentiment that pervades the drama than in the circumstances of the drama itself. In this sentiment there is a great deal of true poetry; and, although it expresses itself in prose, there is a fervour in its utterances that belongs entirely to the higher mood of feeling and expression. It would not, perhaps, be possible to point out a single extraordinarily felicitous passage throughout the piece; but the impression which the author's dialogue leaves is that he has produced a result of literary finish which mere care and laborious polishing of lines would not have given; and we are very glad to remark that his audience were not unappreciative

of the unusual grace belonging to his work. The whole of his *dramatis personæ* are French, and he appears to us to have been very happy in indicating the moral tone of the class from which his principal characters are drawn. In 1720 the Revolution was a long way off, and the relations of the noblesse and the peasantry were upon a footing differing very little from the feudal system of three hundred years earlier. The great landed proprietor would not, perhaps, have ventured to kill one of his serfs for the purpose of warming his feet in his blood, but there was little in the way of vassalage that he hesitated to exact from him. At the opening of "Light and Shadow," *Pierre la Croche*, a hunchback peasant, born on the estate of the *Marquis de Bellemaison*, is represented as having raised himself to the position of secretary to the Marquis. There is a romantic story connected with the accident to which his personal defect is owing. In his early youth he had fallen from a tree, into which he had climbed to catch an escaped pet bird belonging to *Clarisse de Bellemaison*, the daughter of his liege lord. The boyish gallantry which had cost him so dear has ripened into love, and he wears upon his heart a portrait of the high-born lady to whom he can hardly dream of openly avowing his passion. Accident reveals the fact of his wearing the portrait of his mistress. *Clarisse* has a lover, *Victor de Monterreux*, who, with the reckless disregard of life belonging to his class, rides over the peasant-secretary while on his way to keep an appointment with *Clarisse*. Deigning to give a moment's attention to the injured man, he has assisted in opening the hunchback's dress and discovered the miniature, of the existence of which he informs *Clarisse*. The daughter of *Bellemaison* is both astonished and indignant at the presumption of her peasant-born lover, and in a subsequent interview compels him to give up to her the offending miniature, at the same time making him clearly understand that she looks upon his love as an insult. She is not all harshness, however, and, on the representation of *Pierre*, promises to intercede with her father to avert the projected demolition of the cottage in which the hunchback's mother is lying in such a precarious condition that the least excitement may prove fatal to her. But the *Marquis de Bellemaison* is quite incapable of understanding that any such considerations as those suggested in opposition to his will are worthy of notice: the cottage is razed to the ground for the sake of improving the park of *Bellemaison*, and the peasant-mother falls a victim to the harsh proceeding. Goaded beyond patient endurance, *Pierre* curses the Marquis, and is sent to the Bastille for his pains; while *Jacques Sabot*, a rough peasant-friend of his, is packed off to the galleys for having violently opposed his lord's will and pleasure in the pulling down of the hunchback's cottage. An interval of seven years is passed over between the first and second acts, and during this interval the relative positions of the principal personages of the drama have changed. *Pierre*, forgotten in a dungeon of the Bastille for five years, struggling against madness and despair, and supported in his trial by the thought of avenging the murder—as he considers it—of his mother, has at length been set free. He finds all France delirious with the excitement that followed the promulgation of the "Mississippi Scheme"—the advantages of which were wildly, not to say monstrously, eulogized by no less a writer than Fontenelle—and becomes known as the "Hunchback of the Rue Quincampoix." Into this speculative vortex he plunges, and comes up the richest and most powerful man in France—the ruler of the Cardinal Dubois, who was the ruler of the Regent. He has learnt that his old friend *Jacques Sabot* is a galley-slave, and effected his liberation; and, as a reward for his unmerited sufferings, bestows upon him part of the estate of *Bellemaison*, of which he has become the master. The scene in which the two friends meet is one of the best in the piece, the dramatic effect of the picture being greatly heightened by the minor incidents introduced into it. Amongst those who, in the opening scene of the story, had exhibited a callous contempt for the feelings of the wretched hunchback when he was appealing in behalf of his dying mother were the *Baron de Châteauneux* and the *Count D'Oriflamme*. These gentlemen have been ruined by their Mississippi speculations, and are reduced to wear the livery of the *parvenu Pierre La Croche*, in the hope that by his influence they may succeed in getting some small appointments in the household of the Regent; and their agony of mind at being obliged by their master to wait upon a released galley-slave is highly

comic. The *Marquis de Bellemaison* has not only to bear the sting of poverty, but is threatened with the loss of his son, who has committed treason and is condemned to be executed. On appealing to the Minister for mercy, the agonized father is referred to the all-powerful *Pierre La Croche*, with whom the fate of the condemned young man has been left as a polite attention on the part of the complaisant Cardinal. The old lord, hardly able to comprehend the change of circumstances that makes it necessary for him to appeal to his "vassal," makes the appeal; but in vain. *Pierre La Croche* has determined to take the life given into his hands as an acquittance for that of his mother. There is another person, however, whose appeal he is less able to withstand; this is *Clarisse*. As far as she knows, she is free to bestow her hand upon her hunchback lover of old, news having reached her that *Victor de Monterreux* has been drowned at sea; and, as the price of her brother's life, she offers to become *Pierre's* wife, accompanying the offer with expressions of regard that make him only too happy to accept it. The third act commences with preparations made for the wedding. *Pierre* is in a dream of happiness, out of which he is speedily awakened by the visit of a secret agent of the Cardinal's, who comes to inform him that *Victor de Monterreux*, after being held for years in captivity in Algiers, has landed in France, but that the Minister will see that he is shot, or shut safely away in the Bastille, just as it may please his excellent friend *La Croche* to determine. The hunchback magnanimously prefers to settle his differences with his rival by a duel, in the midst of which *Clarisse* rushes in; he then discovers that her heart is still set upon her resuscitated lover, and, after a final struggle with his feelings, withdraws his claim to her hand. So ends the piece—not altogether satisfactorily, since *Victor* has done nothing to show himself worthy of the happiness thus handed to him, and is, in fact, a thorough-going example of the aristocratic heartlessness against which the whole story is a protest.

It will be seen, from the outline of the plot above given, that *Pierre La Croche* is the central and principal character in the piece, and that the interest necessarily hangs upon the events of his fortune. The gentleman to whom it is confided, Mr. Dominick Murray, is comparatively new to the London stage; and we have to congratulate him on the deep impression which he succeeds in making upon his audience by thoroughly legitimate and artistic means. There is hardly a scene in which he might not have won thoughtless applause from the gallery by the ordinary means of stage-exaggeration; and it gives us a high sense of his quality to see him careful only of the dramatic demands of the character he is portraying, and regardful only of the applause due to its successful embodiment. Mr. Dominick Murray is unlike any character-actor on the London stage: neither so intense nor so varied as Robson, Toole, or Belmore, he is perhaps better able to express the more tender phases of pathos than any of those admirable actors, with whom he is otherwise well worthy of being classed. To Mr. David Fisher, who plays the little part of *Jacques Sabot*, warm praise is due for the vigorous and well-sustained drawing with which the character is wrought out. His wondering and almost hysterical delight on finding himself free and enriched by his old friend *Pierre* is a bit of acting not often equalled on the stage. The *Marquis de Bellemaison* is excellently played by Mr. J. W. Ray, the struggle between aristocratic pride and deadly anxiety for the life of his condemned son being very powerfully and truthfully rendered. Mr. H. Forrester and Mr. R. Cathcart represent the *Count D'Oriflamme* and the *Baron de Châteauneux*, and both enter well into the spirit of their parts, especially the former, whose misery at being compelled to wait on *Jacques Sabot*, the released *galérien*, is most humorous. We cannot say anything in the way of praise either of Mr. H. Nelson for his presentment of the lover, *Victor de Monterreux*, or of Miss Caroline Carson for her *Clarisse*: the characters sustained by them are not agreeable as drawn by the author; but they make them gratuitously harsh and repulsive. As we have said, "Light and Shadow" was received with applause, and Mr. Slous was called for and bowed his acknowledgments from his box.

At the Haymarket, on Monday evening next, Mr. Sothorn is to make his appearance in a new comedy entitled "Lord Dundreary Married and Done For." All the prominent characters in "Our American Cousin" will re-appear in the new piece.

# THE READER.

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